TYPES OF CYBER THREATS

VIRUSES are malware designed to cause some kind of malicious activity on the victim computer. They will perhaps delete files, prevent programs such as anti-virus from activating and prevent you from using your computer.

EXPLOITING programs being run on a computer is less common but is nonetheless a potential avenue for a hacker to exploit. It involves using specialized hacking programs to take advantage of weaknesses in a program's code.

HACKERS may employ Man-In-The-Middle attacks and try to get in-between communications your computer is engaged in with another computer. The hacker can record which webpages you are browsing and any other unencrypted data.

IDENTITY theft involves the gathering of personal information likely from social media websites such as Facebook, Instagram, etc. and using this to build a picture of who you are. If enough sensitive information is gathered it could allow the hacker to masquerade as you in some way, the worst case scenario may involve them stealing your bank details.

PASSWORD attacks involve someone using a hacking tool to enter many passwords a second into a website in an attempt to crack the target's account credentials and gain access. This can also be performed on a PC logon screen.

SPEAR-PHISHING is when someone attempts to send an email to you and this is one of the more popular cyber threats. Often these messages are designed to convince you to provide the hacker with your personal details, download a dangerous file or follow a link to a malicious or vulnerable website.

CROSS-SITE scripting is an attack method that often involves the hacker sending an internet link to their target. This link will take you to a vulnerable website with malicious code on it and, as a result, exploit your computer.

TROJANS are malware which disguise themselves as harmless or useful programs but will cause a variety of malicious effects including downloading dangerous programs, deleting or sending files and providing control of the computer to the hacker.

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