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When researching the various motivations of hackers, it seems apparent that the question of “What motivates a hacker?” isn’t black and white. Learning the vast areas of motive can help me be more aware of outlying options on what may motivate an attack. Thinking outside of the box will also aid in this. Motives for attack vary from cash gain, revenge, social/ moral justification, notoriety, fame, espionage, or curiosity. This broad spectrum of motives can lead to a possible attack from all angles and scenarios. Trying to gain a better understanding of motives, I read articles about different attacks. Each attack seemed to have its own set of motives. Each attack may also have more than one motive. This makes the research of the motivation of hackers even more complex.

When explaining this to a new developer, I would simply explain that if it is a possible reason for an attack, we should protect against it. This general principle will allow new developers to think about potential motives for attack and should keep it at the forefront of their minds when developing programs. Another portion of explaining motive is through examples of different motives in real-world applications. Having a list of previous attacks from different areas of motive will help drive home the expansive list of motives and aid in their development process.

The example I can use in my final reflection in module eight is applying the knowledge I have learned about the motives of hackers and penetrators, which includes stealing and leaking of information. This information learned throughout the research of motives will allow me to apply this knowledge to my future projects, while learning to adapt these skills with the ever-changing world of hacking.