# Footprinting

Footprinting is a technique used to gather information on a computer system. The accumulated data can then be used to exploit the system. Information can be gathered in non-intrusive ways such as through a company’s own website. Employees of a company maybe targeted to see if they may have unwittingly supplied information that maybe used against the company that they work for. This report will focus on a chosen target of company and will describe ways the information provided by the target can be used negatively against the company.

The company we have chosen to footprint is Microsoft Ireland. We have chosen to gather information on Stephen Howell an Academic Engagement Manager for the company. As expected of an employee in the IT sector, Stephen has a high online presence. He has active accounts on such sites as Linkedin, Google+,Twitter and also has a website saorog.com. The information provided through these sites provides a lot of personal information about Stephen and his family. We were able to determine how many kids he has as well as find out information about his wife. We were able to find out his wife’s Twitter account, forums that she has shown interest in and were she currently works. Stephen notably uses the alias ‘saorog’ online persistently, this could be certainly flagged by hacker to try as a username if attempting to access his Microsoft work user account or other personal accounts. Since Stephen also provides his kids names online they may also be candidates for passwords. In person attacks are also a possibility given the information provided. It is possible Stephen or his wife could be monitored and followed home and an attacker may then dumpster dive to find additional information.

[stephen.r.howell@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.r.howell@gmail.com)