08 Social Engineering

What is social engineering

Social engineering is non technical method of intrusion which hackers use that relies heavily on human interaction and often involves tricking people into breaking normal security procedures.It is one of the greatest threats that organizations today encounter

Definition:

Psychological manipulation of people into performing actions or divulging confidential information.

Attacking humans

- Humans are easiest route in, still…
- Low investment, high return
- Research enough on target and come up with a scenario that you think will work
- Make your scenario work

Why is social engineering effective?

- Security policies are as strong as their weak link, and humans are most susceptible factor.
- It is difficult to detect social engineering attempts
- There is no method to ensure complete security from social engineering attacks
- There are no specific hardware or software for defending against a social engineering attack

Shoulder surfing

Shoulder surfing refers to using direct observation techniques such as looking over someone's shoulder, to get information. It is commonly used to obtain passwords, PINs, security codes and similar data

Occurs when the attacker watches another person's computer screen over that person's shoulder. Particularly dangerous in public areas such as airports, commuter trains, airports, ATM kiosks.

Tailgating or piggybacking

It happens when a person tags along with another person who is authorized to gain entry into a restricted area or pass a certain checkpoint.

"Tailgating" implies without consent while "Piggybacking" usually implies consent of the authorized person

To deter tailgating, many companies have anti-tailgating doors, protecting entrance to high security areas, through which only one person can go at a time.

Dumpster diving

It is looking for treasure in someone else's trash (A dumpster is a large trash container). In IT world, dumpster diving is used to retrieve information that could be used to retrieve information that can be used to carry out an attack on a computer network.

© Dumpster Divers of Canberra

PHISHING

Phishing is the attempt to acquire sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details, often for malicious reasons, by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication.

Spoofed Website URL