

Computers in Society-Computer Crime

Answer the following questions related to computers in society. Make sure to do the following:

- The answers were well written, devoid of errors in spelling and grammar. A box is provided with a number indicating the number of key points to list in your answer.
- The answers contained sufficient evidence\data/stats.
- At least two references are included for each section (URL's only required)
- Answers are in red font.

2

Expert Group A - Software Piracy

Define software piracy and explain why copying software is considered stealing and illegal.

<https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/softpira.htm#:~:text=Software%20piracy%20is%20a%20term,on%20it%20at%20one%20time>.

Software piracy is the illegal distribution and copying of software. Much like actual theft, software piracy is illegal and considered stealing. This is because this individual did not purchase the license to the software or have legal rights to it.

4

Why do people copy software? Do you think that most of these people would also steal clothes or food from a store? If not, why do you think their attitudes are different when it comes to copying software?

People might pirate software because they might not have enough money to purchase it. Furthermore, many people might not feel comfortable about putting their credit card information online. I myself have pirated many video games from retro consoles.

However I do this because many of these games are no longer purchasable. However, I don't think any of these people would steal from an actual store. I believe this attitude is different because software piracy is not enforced by law enforcement as heavily as theft.

2

How do programmers stop an average user from copying a program? (Name two alternatives.)

One way I have witnessed developers counter piracy is through keys. Users might have to input a key code to have access to the software. Furthermore, I have seen water marks being used as well.

2

What kind of work by program developers is involved in developing a computer package? Why is it so valuable?

You have to pay smart people with the proper education to produce this software thus, being so expensive and valuable

2

Why might programmers and software developers stop producing new programs? Explain.

there has to be an incentive for engineers to produce the software!

References: 1.

2.

Computer Crime

Expert Group B - Hacking I.

1

What is hacking?

<https://www.malwarebytes.com/hacker>

1

Hacking is the activity of compromising computer systems like phones, laptops, and pcs.

How do hackers enter a computer system without permission?

With the use of social engineering, hackers typically enter a users computer through malicious software, emails, pictures, websites, or by the use of data breaches

1

Why do hackers enter other computer systems?

Most of the time, hackers enter computer systems for money. For example, RansomWare encrypted millions of peoples files and demanded 300 BTC to retrieve it. Furthermore, hackers can obtain banking information or passwords to obtain money. Sometimes, hackers enter your computer to just mess around with you. This is by damaging your computer or sensitive files.

1

Is hacking a crime?

yes.

3

What if the hacker simply looks around a computer system and does not change or damage anything? Would you consider this a crime? Explain.

I would still consider this as a crime. This is because you are invading someones privacy. Their could be sensitive information on that computer that the victim might not want to share. Furthermore, if we use the analogy of real life, what if a stranger entered your house without permission. Despite not damaging or changing anything it is still considered illegal (trespassing).

1

What effect can a hacker have on a computer system?

Like I have mentioned before, hackers can do digital and physical damage. Digitally hackers can encrypt or flat out wipe files from your computer. Furthermore, some malware can even cause physical damage for your computer.

1

How might hackers' access to government systems threaten security and privacy?

Like I mentioned before, hackers can inject malware into computers. In fact, we have already seen hackers threaten the security and privacy of government systems. RansomWare attacked several government building and hospital by encrypting important files and quite literally holding them for ransom. Also, hackers have already on numerous occasions military and government files.

References: 1.

2.

Computer Crime

Expert Group C - Computer Viruses

1

What is a computer virus?

a computer virus is a software program that intentionally infects your computer to steal data and damage components

2

What are the components of a virus?

Infection mechanism to infect, the trigger to allow the virus to activate, the payload the stuff it does

List 3 possible effects of viruses?

Shut down the computer, steal data, use your computer as a homebase to multiply the virus

3

Define the following:

1

logic bomb

A virus that gets triggered by a something like a date or a key

1

worm

1

I virus that causes harm by replicating itself.

How can viruses spread from one computer to another?
email, pictures, websites, programs, etc!

2

What steps can be taken to prevent infection by a virus?
an anti virus, avoid downloading shady software

1

How can viruses be detected and eliminated?
anti virus programs

2

Why do you think someone would create a virus? Do you think it is illegal to create a virus?
to steal data and for a challenge

References: 1.

2.

Computer Crime

Expert Group D - Fraud and Theft

3

List 3 types of crime that can be committed using computers.
Identity theft, hacking, destruction, malware,

1

How do computer crimes differ from other types of crime?
Not as monitored. More personal

1

What does "unauthorized access" mean?
Not allowed

1

Why do you think many cases of computer crimes are not reported by banks and other businesses?
Online crimes are a lot more common, furthermore, it gives bad press to these companies.

3

List three things that could have been done to prevent one or more of the computer crimes described from being committed?
Anti viruses, ad blocker, common sense and education

2

What is EFF and describe its role as it pertains to the use of computers?

References: 1.

2.

