

a cause are said to be practicing *hactivism*. Thus, their targets are any organizations that they perceive are behind social injustice. They attack government organizations and agencies, international economic organizations, and any other entities that they define as being responsible for social and economic inequities. Through their hactivism, they gain publicity for their cause and for themselves to help build their reputation. No matter what the justification, breaking into computers and networks is illegal.

**Threats**

Threats from hackers can take on a variety of forms. The relevant threats are summarized in Table 1-1.

**Table 1-1:** Example Threats

THREAT	DESCRIPTION
Information Warfare	Computer-related attacks for military or economic purposes
Cyber Terrorism	Attacks against a nation’s critical infrastructure such as power plants, chemical plants, refineries, economic centers, transportation systems, and so on
Criminal	Theft, fraud, physical damage
Violation of Data Integrity	Theft of data, modification of data, loss of data
Late or Delayed Processing	Delays in processing that lead to reduced income, penalties, or additional expenses
Acquiring High Sensitivity Data	Using inference, data aggregation, or other methods to acquire data of higher sensitivity than allowed to the normal user
Malware	Viruses, Trojan horses, worms, and other software that cause harm to information systems
Denial or Interruption of Service	Denial of service or distributed denial of service attacks that saturate an information system’s resources so that important processing tasks are delayed or cannot be done
Personnel-Related	Unauthorized access to personnel records or attacks by disgruntled employees
Environmental	Failures and damage caused by environmental issues, such as temperature, power failures, fire, flood, and so on caused naturally or by intervention from an attacker