

know your enemy

- ⇒ everyone is equally - likely to get attacked. Hackers run automated softwares to look for vulnerability across globe
- A hacked email can be used for various dangerous activities
- There are vulnerabilities in codes that can be exploited by hackers to seek information.
- There can be special lines of code on website that can exploit your PC as soon as you open that site.
- Known vulnerabilities have patches. If you have that patch, that vulnerability cannot be exploited.
- Unknown bugs have no patch.
- Vulnerabilities are assigned CVE numbers and their exploit code is available on the internet. Most of them are known vulnerabilities & therefore have patches.
- If a person doesn't have the patch, they are likely to get attacked using the exploit code.

★ Current Threat Landscape:

↳ Hackers, Crackers & Cyber Criminals are ^{at the} the top of the threat landscape.

- White Hat hackers are the people who are ethically paid by a company to target their service for vulnerabilities.
- Black Hat hacker on the other hand can unethically exploit your system to make money out of it.

↳ Malwares are the programs written with malicious intent.

↳ Malwares can include many things, such as:

- Macro Viruses: viruses written in macro languages such as VBS. When a document is opened, they can run automatically.

- Stealth Viruses: Hides the modifications it made & intercepts with the antivirus to provide false & bogus information to the operating system.
- Polymorphic Virus: Produces various copies of itself. It is difficult to detect.
- Self-garbling Virus: Attempts to hide from antivirus by modifying its code to not match predefined signatures.
- Bots & Zombies: Already compromised systems that have ability to exploit others.
- Worms can spread from one to another quickly.
- Rootkit are embedded in kernel & can exploit from there w/o getting detected.
- Firmware Rootkits hides in the firmware of your hardware and are worst of all.
- Key loggers & Trojans also exist. Trojans appear to be a useful thing but they are malware.
- Remote Access Tool (RAT) run on your system & allow others to remotely access your system.

★ Ransomware: Malware that has control of your PC & can covertly encrypt all of your files with a decryption key that only the hacker knows. Later they ask you for money to return the data.

★ Malvertisement: An online advertisement that is affected by a malware.

★ Spywares exist that gather information & send it to the spy, the attacker. It is an intelligence gathering malware.

★ Adware forces advertisements on you. It falls under browser hijacking.

★ Scareware is like a trap which tricks people to believe in a threat which isn't actually real.

Phishing

- one of the most successful attack
- cheap to setup
- phishing happens when you give your information to a clone false website that you believe, is authentic.
- false emails are sent that contains the link to the false site.
- Spear phishing is when you are targeted individually
- Techniques:

- Link Manipulation

- ↳ Subdomains & Misspelt
- ↳ IDN Homograph Attack (Internationalized Domain Names)
- ↳ Hidden URLs

IDN:

★ Real Domain: The domain name to the left of the HLD (High Level Domain) that has no / (back slash) to the left. (excludes https://)

Eg:

https:// microsoft.com / info.html
is real but

https:// stationx.net / microsoft.com / info.php
is not real

★ Vishing is phone or voice phishing.

★ SMShing is SMS phishing / text phishing.

★ Doxing: To do research on an individual or a company to find personal & private info.

- CPU Hijackers take control of your CPU hardware to use it for mining crypto. Your device might be a crypto miner.
- JavaScript based miners inject attack on a website you open & therefore the browser uses CPU to mine.
- ★ To mitigate this, monitoring CPU usage is essential. You can also use adblockers to stop browser mining.

Darknet: A place that can be accessed only using special encryption or authorization. This is generally used for privacy, anonymity & to ensure security.

→ On the darknet, you might find many exploit kits & other illegal-to-share material on sale.
