# **CS 405 7-1 Journal: Consider the Motive for the attack**

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The threat of attacks on a system is always something to think about while developing it. But some developers are just working against issues that they think could go wrong with the system internally, and they think less about potential hackers. Thinking about the Motive for an attack is a matter of asking yourself who would want to disrupt this system and why would they want to do it. The who could potentially be any white, grey, or black hat hackers. Having an idea of who and the why can help me create secure code to prevent attacks like an SQL Injection, overflows or underflows, and exceptions.

Helping a new developer understand the motive for an attack requires you to explain who and the why. Discussing the job of a developer to think security first while developing is important. Offering advice as a way to think about their job, it could be similar to being a security guard at a bank. A motive for an attack on the bank would be to rob it and take the money. Having that security guard can keep the bank secure and less likely to be attacked. And if attacked, the security guard can either stop the attack or contact authorities to help stop it. An attack on the bank could just be to rob an take the money, or the attacker could just want to cause chaos, or even take data from it. The attack on the bank could be just an upset customer, or they could have been paid to attack the bank. Establishing a connection between something like a bank robbery to secure coding for a project would help a new developer understand why they need to consider the motive of an attacker.

An example of an attack I could use would be from this attack on Target in 2013. This attack was done by hackers attempting to get data from the customer data. The motive for this attack was for financial gain of the hackers. They wanted to either make money by selling the customer information or use the customer information to purchase products themselves. A motive like this is relatively common. Many hackers are out to make money any way they can. This also cost Target money to settle with customers that lost their data.

References:

Jones, C. (2025, July 2). *Warnings (& lessons) of the 2013 Target Data Breach*. Red River | Technology Decisions Aren’t Black and White. Think Red. <https://redriver.com/security/target-data-breach>