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CS-405

7-1 Journal: Consider the Motive for the Attack

How will you apply this concept to your own practice?

When I graduate, I want to become a software developer. Creating programs for various companies means that throughout my career I will have to deal with a lot of different scenarios, each with their own unique situation that can lead them to be the target of an attack. I could be helping an old, large, company come into the 21st century with a new mobile app that will have a large customer base with a lot of data that would be very valuable to an attacker and need a lot of security to protect it, or I could be dealing with a new start-up company that needs as much security as they can get with their very limited resources and while they might not need the most security they could be a soft target for someone trying to gain skills and experience in hacking. The level of security that you need is both fluid and dependent on the unique situation, for example the amount of security that I need shopping at Wal-Mart in the middle of the day is very different from the level of security I need in the heart of downtown in at 2 am working in my current field of security.

How would you explain this to a new developer on your team?

Looking for the motivation behind an attack will allow you to better understand where you need the strongest security. What is most valuable for a hacker to get from you? An analogy I would use for a new developer is that you don’t put everything you own inside of a safe, you keep your most valuable things in a safe and everything you own inside a locked home. Everything needs to be secure, but some things need even more layers of security to keep them protected because they are worth more to people trying to steal it.

What is one example of this concept you can use in your final reflection in Module Eight?

One example is from a hypothetical that I have been thinking about for an app that I want to make when I graduate and have the available time. I want to make a budgeting app that allows users to better track their income, bills, due dates, etc. and keep better track of how much money they must be able to spend without missing a bill or putting their account into the negative. If I kept the file containing the data local to the device and didn’t keep any kind of database, then the amount of security I would need to add to my app would be minimal and mostly related around avoiding bugs and glitches from users trying to just use the program. If however I wanted to make my program connect to something like a google drive that could then be shared to other members of a household, then I would need a lot more security and protections so that the user data was not stolen by someone trying to get user spending data to sell to marketing firms or other companies. There could also be a risk of the app being used as a backdoor to gain access to someone's Google account and that would need to be addressed as well.