

GEIT 2291 SPRING 2019

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Assignment 3#

Write an event on Cyber Stalking. Your report should contain a brief explanation on what Cyber Stalking is? How has Cyber Stalking grown demographically? Write about an incident in your report. Under which law was the stalker prosecuted. Your report should not exceed more than 1000 words.

What is Cyber Stalking?

Although the Internet has changed and benefited our lives dramatically, it has, in the other hand, a dark side that opened the door to a new type of criminals known as cyber-stalkers. Using the Internet or any other electronic communication device and exploiting its tools as a weapon, a cyber-stalker would systematically harass, threaten, and hurt his or her victim. It can be a form of unwanted contact via emailing, texting, messaging, or sending offensive materials. Also, it can be a form of threatening to share a personal photo, video, or any personal information. In addition, a cyber-stalker could access his/her victim's emails or social media accounts to steal and use personal information or just to block the victim out of them. Moreover, a cyber-stalker can spy on the movements of his/her victims by tracking their GPS, furthermore, cameras, microphones, and any other wired or wireless features a device has can be stalked and hacked. Cyber Stalking can take many more forms, so, there should be more research and studies on the damaging consequences of unprotected technology and how it can be avoided. Modern societies are dealing

with a new type of criminals, who can be in any part of the world, and that requires a special type of security, cyber-security.

How has Cyber Stalking grown demographically?

The increase of publicity of social media has, consequently, increased the Cyber Stalking incidents because, it made it easier for cyber-stalkers using them as platforms for victim targets. One of the reasons why social media made it easy to Cyber Stalk is that 39% of the children who use them do not enable their privacy settings. To further understand the level of danger it can lead to, it needs to be known that 25% of teenagers on social media reported that their online incidents led to a face-to-face confrontation. According to the research report by WHOA (short for Working to Halt Online Abuse) in 2013, 60% of the cyber-stalking incidents were women victims, most of which were reported in the US. In 2015, in the UK cyber-crimes have increased to a memorizing 6 million offenses committed, which meant one in ten adults were victims to cyber-crim. Moreover, Phishing is a cyber-crime that cyber-stalkers can use to lure their victims by impersonating a legitimate person and sending a link that would harm the victim's device or be a door into their device. According to the Verizon DBIR, 30% of phishing emails are opened and 12% of those targeted clicks on the infecting links or attachments.

An Incident of Cyber Stalking

California passed the first cyberstalking law in 1999. Its first use resulted in a six-year sentence for a man who harassed a woman who could identify him. Ms. Miller, 44-year-old had been unnerved by a sudden and, steady lusty phone calls, e-mail messages and even late-night visits from strange men typically seeking delivery on dark promises made to them online by someone unknown, using her name. This case had echoed the case of Gary S. Dellapenta, from Los Angeles, a former security guard who spent the summer of 1998 trolling chat rooms and personals sites posing as his ex-girlfriend. He posted dark sexual fantasies under her name and, providing her home address, begged strangers to deliver on them. 6 men arrived at the former girlfriend's door before Mr. Dellapenta was eventually tracked down. Under California's then-new cyberstalking law, in 1999, he was sentenced to six years in prison. About 45 states now have laws similar to California's. And the new federal law is under the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act updated telephone harassment law to include computer communications.

Sources

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