

## Unit 3 – Collaborative Learning Discussion 1

### Summary Post – Malware Disruption

The Computer Misuse Act attempts to discourage people from using computers for illegal purposes. There are three separate parts to the Act: It is illegal to access data stored on a computer. Unauthorized access, often referred to as hacking, is punishable by law. To access data on a computer without permission is illegal, and this material will be used to commit further illegal activity, such as fraud or blackmail. It is against the law to change any data stored on a computer if people do not have permission. If people access and change someone's files without their permission, it is illegal. This includes installing a virus or other malware that damages and/or symptomatically changes how the computer works. (Termsfeed, 1990)

DDoS attacks can be conducted by an individual, group or state. States may target critical infrastructures that are deemed essential to the functioning of society. DDoS attacks are made possible by utilizing digital devices that have been infected with malicious software (or malware) in order to remotely control them and use them for cyberattacks. Cybercriminals also produce computer misuse tools, such as technological devices, malicious software (or malware), and passwords, access codes, and other data that enables them to gain illegal access or otherwise interfere with the target.

Article 9 ("offence of misuse of information technology means") of the Arab Convention on Combating Information Technology Offences criminalizes: (1) the production, sale, purchase, import, distribution or provision of: (a) any tools or programmes designed or adapted for the purpose of committing the offences indicated in Articles 6 [(offence of illicit access), Article 7 (offence of illicit interception), and Article 8 (offence against the integrity of data)]. UNODC (N.D), BCS (2021)

### References:

- Termsfeed (1990) Computer Misuse Act 1990. Available from: [https://www.termsfeed.com/blog/computer-misuse-act-1990/#:~:text=Penalties%20on%20Indictment-,About%20the%20Computer%20Misuse%20Act%201990,ransomware\)%20on%20a%20person's%20computer](https://www.termsfeed.com/blog/computer-misuse-act-1990/#:~:text=Penalties%20on%20Indictment-,About%20the%20Computer%20Misuse%20Act%201990,ransomware)%20on%20a%20person's%20computer). [Accessed 01 March 2022]
- UNDOC (N.D.) Offences against the confidentiality, integrity and availability of computer data and systems. Available from: <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/zh/cybercrime/module-2/key-issues/offences-against-the-confidentiality--integrity-and-availability-of-computer-data-and-systems.html>. [Accessed 01 March 2022].
- BCS (2021) Code of Conduct for BCS Members. Available from: <https://www.bcs.org/media/2211/bcs-code-of-conduct.pdf> [Accessed 01 March 2022]