**Google Hacking**

Austin Johns

ITT-306

Professor Kris Peters

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Explore the thousands of search examples published in the “Google Hacking Database,” watch “Google Dorking or Hacking Credit Cards SSN and Passwords with Google,” and read “Is Google Dorking Illegal?” “Removals Tool,” and “Computer Fraud and Abuse Act Reform.” Answer the questions below using full sentences and supporting evidence to justify your responses.

1. Capture a screenshot of a directory listing MP3, MP4, or PDF files that were hosted on a web server as shown in the video. In the photo caption, explain why you believe this directory probably was not intended to be shared.

Graphical user interface, text, application, email

Description automatically generated

I believe that this directory was intended to be private because it is a large list of movies that are hosted on the website Newtek.com. The website is a shop for new technology-related products. For this reason, I don’t think that this is meant to be shared online. To find this directory, my simple Google search was, “intext: "Parent Directory" intext: "movies".”

1. Capture a screenshot of a SQL backup file from a site. In the caption, highlight the most vulnerable data contained in the backup file.

Graphical user interface, application, Word

Description automatically generated

As seen in this screenshot, there is a backup list for nid.edu. I found this list by searching, “intitle:"index of" intext:"admin/backup" and it was the third result on the page. What caught my eye about this website is that it’s an educational website. This website hosts the National Institute of Design. Likely, given the size of each file, there isn’t very much information in these backups, but the website should still make efforts to secure their information.

1. Explain the process Google provides users to remove pages from the search results.
   1. Google has a removals tool that allows site owners to put in a request for removal from Google’s search results. This is a great tool because if a website does not want its private information accessible to the public through Google, then the site owner can submit the removal request. However, this is just a temporary fix for most site owners. The removal tool will only remove the site temporarily. For the permanent removal, there’s a tool for that.
2. What advice does Google provide for permanent removal from search results?
   1. Google also has a permanent removal option for website owners. The permanent removal requires a bit more time to take care of because Google requires that the website owner produces enough information to prove ownership. Once the ownership is proven, the owner can request permanent removal.
3. Compare the activity of Google Hacking to legal cases involving the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA). State whether or not you believe that CFAA relates to information obtained by a Google Dork search. Support your argument with examples from previous court decisions.
   1. As the CFAA is the leading federal law against hacking, there are many cases that intend to protect American citizens against the effects of hacking (Cohn et al). The goal of many CFAA cases is to mitigate the number of hackers that exist and apply repercussions for crimes over the internet (Franscesani, 2020). Some examples of CFAA court cases that have helped to resolve crimes committed by hackers are *U.S. V. AARON SWARTZ* and *U.S. V. SERGEY ALEYNIKOV* (CFAA Cases)*.* In both cases, the individuals involved hacked into computer systems to gain information. Swartz provided stolen customer information from a server, and Aleynikov stole information from his former employer after he left the company (CFAA Cases). In both of these cases, the CFAA protected the US companies from malicious attacks. However, Google Dorking is a bit different. There are many precautions that a company or organization can take to mitigate the effects of dorking. Google is aware of the issue and offers avenues to help protect companies. For this reason, I believe that the CFAA should continue to focus on the malicious hacking attacks and allow for Google to handle the dorking issue.

Resources

*CFAA Cases*. NACDL. <https://www.nacdl.org/Content/CFAACases>.

Cohn, C., Tsukayama, H., &amp; Crocker, A. Computer Fraud And Abuse Act Reform. Electronic Frontier Foundation. <https://www.eff.org/issues/cfaa>.

Francescani, C. (2016, April 3). U.S. Infrastructure Can Be Hacked With Google, Simple Passwords. NBCNews.com. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/u-s-infrastructure->can-be-hacked-google-simple-passwords-n548661.

shadsluiter. (2020, May 29). Google Dorking or Hacking Credit Cards SSN and Passwords with

Google. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDpy0eg2xK8.