

Essay 5 - Cybercrime: credit card fraud and identity theft.

“Cybercrime, also called computer crime, the use of a computer as an instrument to further illegal ends, such as committing fraud, trafficking in child pornography and intellectual property, stealing identities, or violating privacy.”(Dennis, 2019) Dennis further said that, “Cybercrime, especially through the Internet, has grown in importance as the computer has become central to commerce, entertainment, and government.” In other words, cybercrime is crime or illegal action that takes place over the cyber web or internet using a computer or other smart device. There are many types of cybercrime and some examples are; spam email, internet fraud, identity fraud, theft of financial or card payment data or also know as credit card fraud, cyberextortion which means that a criminal would demand money to prevent a threatened attack, ransomware attacks which is a type of cyberextortion, crypto jacking is where the hackers mine cryptocurrency using resources they do not own or false resources and cyberespionage is when hackers access government or company data. However, there are two main categories of cybercrime; “criminal activity that targets” and “criminal activity that uses computers to commit other crimes”. However, in this essay credit card fraud and identity theft will be the two cybercrimes explained.

Credit card theft can happen to users in several ways. An email or message can be sent to you asking for you to send your credit card and user information or when you go onto an unsafe or unsecured website to purchase an item, the people behind the website can steal your information there. Credit card theft can also occur outside the cyber net, for example if an employee at a cashier swipes a person’s card through a device to copy the data from the card magnetic strip. However, this essay focuses on how credit card fraud happens as a cybercrime.

Another case where someone's credit card can be taken from them through the web is by hacking the person's data and taking control of the device to then take all the person data.

Identity theft can happen like credit card fraud, where a hacker can hack your accounts and pretend or impersonate you. Another way is if a user goes on an unsafe or unsecure website and logs in for whatever the reasons and the people behind the website takes your information. Identity theft is so common over the internet, it can even happen when users are tricked into giving spam messages or emails assistance while in the shadows they are stealing your user's information.

There are many ways to avoid both credit card theft and identity theft. Users should be more knowledgeable about what spam emails and text messages are and how to avoid or remove them from their devices. Users should not trust just any website; they should check whether it's safe and secured as well as trustworthy. Users should have double identification codes or passwords to secure their devices as well as have firewalls and antiviruses so that hackers can not try to hack or send corrupted files to steal the users' data.

In conclusion, there are many types of cybercrime and credit card theft and identity theft are two of the most common types of cybercrime to be committed.

References

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