A GIFT OF FIRE THIRD EDITION - SARA BAASE
CHAPTER 2: Computer Crime

Lecture 1

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Challenges wrt Computer Crime

❏ There are at least three:

❏ Prevention

❏ Detection

❏ Prosecution

Defining "Hacking": Phase one

Phase 1: Joy of Programming

- ❏ The early years (1960s and 1970s), when hacking was a positive term
- ❏ Hacker was a creative programmer who wrote clever code.
- ❏ First OSes and computer games were written by such hackers.
- ❏ Hackers were usually – but not always – high-school and college students.

Phase 2: From the 1970s to the mid-1990s

- ❏ Negative overtones appear in 1970s-90s

- ❏ Popular authors and media caused this use of term:
  - ○ Described someone who used computers without authorization.
  - ○ Sometimes to commit crimes.

- ❏ Early computer crimes were launched against business and government computers.

- ❏ Adult criminals began using computers
  - ○ "White collar" crime
  - ○ Organized crime increasingly responsible for computer break-ins

Phase 3: The growth of the Web and mobile devices

- ❏ Web era (mid 90s)

- ❏ Increased use of Internet by average people

- ❏ Attractive to criminals with basic computer skills.

- ❏ Crimes included the release of malicious code

- ❏ Unprotected computers are especially vulnerable

- ❏ Hacking for political motives increased

Phase 3: The growth of the Web and mobile devices

❏ Unsuspecting users may have their computers utilized to take

part in a DDoS or fraud

❏ Minimal computer skills needed to create havoc

○ "Script kiddies"

■ Attackers who use tools / code written by others

Hacktivism

❏ Hacktivism is the use of hacking to promote a political cause

❏ Degree can range from mild to destructive

> ❏ Defacing websites

> ❏ Destroying data

> ❏ Denial of service

❏ People who agree with the political or social position of the hackers will tend to see an act as "activism," while those who disagree will tend to see it as ordinary crime (or worse).

❏ Some academic writers and political groups argue that hacktivism is ethical, that it is a modern form of civil disobedience.

Hacktivism

❏ Others argue that the political motive is irrelevant, or at the other extreme, that political hacking is a form of cyberterrorism.

❏ They think so:

  ❏ Denies others their own freedom of speech.

  ❏ Violates property rights.

  ❏ Even some hacktivists reject web-site defacing as legitimate.activity.

Thank You