

## **Ethical Hacking**

Hacking refers to the act of gaining unauthorized access to computer systems, networks, or data—often by exploiting vulnerabilities or bypassing security measures. While the term is commonly associated with malicious activity, hacking itself isn't inherently negative. Ethical hackers, or "white hats," use their skills to identify and fix security flaws, helping organizations protect against cyber threats. On the other hand, "black hat" hackers engage in illegal activities such as data theft, system disruption, or financial fraud. There's also a middle ground—"gray hat" hackers—who operate without malicious intent but may still violate laws or ethical boundaries. In today's interconnected world, hacking plays a pivotal role in shaping cybersecurity, digital privacy, and the ongoing battle between innovation and exploitation.