**Why is Information Security Important?**

*By SSV Likhitesh, BE 3/4 CSE-2*

News articles these days contain a myriad of information. However, today, something is changing. A lot of news has surfaced regarding stolen bank credentials, stolen CVVs and compromised Facebook accounts for sale. Why is this happening? The answer shall become apparent as we proceed. To understand why information security is important, let us start off with one basic question. “Why security, at all?” The answer is precisely the same as the answer to why one would need a security guard at their door. Now let’s look at what this field has in store for us.

Every day, we observe news saying that some or the other company was hacked. Even GMail was hacked recently. Yahoo has been hacked three times straight in 2016. Amazon was knocked out of service in 2016 for more than half a day causing it an estimated loss of a couple of billion dollars. There is a difference between choosing something to be a field of career and having minimum awareness about it. Despite information security jobs currently being the highest paid jobs in the IT sector, let’s focus on why a minimum knowledge is necessary. Any application developed ultimately needs to win the trust of the customer. If your application is proven to have a flaw which allows an attacker to steal your customer’s private data, then imagine the consequences. Hence, it is a bare necessity not to just program, but to secure code, which implies that one needs to be aware of security, as one cannot secure or strengthen something unless one knows how to break it. Even in your leisure time, bug bounties are decent earnings that supplement your income.

Finally, even if machines ever become as intelligent as humans, it is common sense to say that a computer can never be smarter than its creator. Which means that the same limitations that apply to people also apply to machines. So, if a person can be fooled, even an equally intelligent computer can be fooled, which practically is the same as gaining unauthorized access. Taking all this into account, it can be said that IT industry has tremendous scope in the field of Information Security, and regardless of how intelligent computers might ever get, this field would continue to thrive.