**7-1 Journal: Consider the Motive for the Attack**

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Motives can be a tricky thing to identify. Properly identifying data that could be exploited and the reasoning behind it can help develop stronger and more secure code. Some people hack for the acknowledgment, while others hack for money or political reasons. Actively considering motives can help us design systems that account for technical flaws and human intent. Assuming an intent exists can cause our thinking to become more critical and defensive.

Understanding potential motives behind an attack would help me look beyond just functionality and develop with security as a priority. I plan to code for worst-case scenarios with security as a priority, integrating input validation and testing throughout the development cycle. I’ll log anomalies so patterns and malicious attacks can be recognized and handled promptly and correctly. I’ll use default deny in my coding to ensure only people with proper authorization can access sensitive information.

I would explain this concept to a new developer on my team with an analogy. Assume you have $10,000 in your wallet. How would you keep it safe? Depositing the money into a bank account would be like encrypting the data. It still exists, but it is encrypted behind a debit card. Default deny would be like keeping the information private, simply not letting people know you have the money unless they are required to know. After the new developer understands how the money analogy relates to keeping code secure, I would associate that with money lost from insecure data from the company. Poor security can lead to losses for the company, its employees, and the customers.

One example of this concept that I can use in my final reflection is that secure coding makes better code. Using proper security techniques while you code creates code that is more robust and less prone to errors. Using input validation helps keep information more secure, but it also makes the application function better. Secure coding concepts help prevent attacks, handle human mistakes, and keep the program operating as required.