The Evaluation of Hackers: Scripts Kiddies vs. Advance Persistent Threat

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Script Kiddies are hackers that did not find the system’s vulnerabilities on their own. They simply download the exploited script from any source and run the attack against their target’s system (1).

The advanced persistent threats (APT) make use of advanced technologies, select specific targets, and then remain focused on those targets until they achieve victory. An APT might be willing to invest months or years toward infiltrating and compromising a valuable target (1) An example of this type of attack is the US 2016 election.

According to (1), the differences between Scripts Kiddies and Advanced Persistent Threats. Can be found below:

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Scripts Kiddies | Advance Persistent Threats |
| Technical Skills | Low | High |
| Target | Wide range (any system that might be vulnerable to attack) | Specific Target |
| Damage | Low to medium | High |
| Organize | Mostly individuals | Highly organized and capable group |
| Methodology | Depend upon individual skills | Cyber Kill Chain |
| Identity | Tech-savvy people who are either common criminals or individuals living on the margin of law and morality | The highly organized and capable group includes non-state actors, state actors, and military groups |

References

Chapple, M., & Seidl, D. (2023). Chapter 5: The Evolving Threat: From Script Kiddies to Advanced Attackers. In *Cyberwarfare: Information Operations in a Connected World* (Second, pp. 103–124). essay, Jones & Bartlett Learning. (1)