**Digital Security**

The Internet provides a wide variety of opportunities for communication and development, but unfortunately it also has its dark side. Hackers are computer criminals who use technology to perform a variety of crimes: virus propagation, fraud, intellectual property theft and others.

Internet-based crimes include scam, email fraud to obtain money or valuables and phishing, bank fraud, to get banking information such as password of Internet bank account or credit card details. Both crimes use emails or websites that look like those of real organizations.

Due to its anonymity, the Internet also provides the right environment for cyber stalking, online harassment or abuse, mainly in chat rooms or newsgroups. Piracy, the illegal copying and distribution of copyrighted software, information, music and video files, is widespread.

Malware (malicious software) is software created to damage or alter the computer data or its operations. These are main types:

- **Viruses** are programs that spread by attaching themselves to executable files or documents. When the infected program is run, the virus propagates to other files or programs on the computer.

- **Worms** are self-copying programs that have the capacity to move from one computer to another without human help, by exploiting security flaws in computer networks. Worms are self-contained and don t need to be attached to a document or program the way virus do.

-**Trojan horses** are malicious programs disguised as innocent-looking files or embedded within legitimate software.

- **Spyware**, software designed to collect information from computers for commercial or criminal purposes, is another example of malicious software. It usually comes hidden in fake freeware or shareware applications downloadable from the Internet.

Today there are many types of fraud on the Internet and the most common are:

- **Phishing** is a type of Internet fraud, the purpose of which is to gain access to confidential user data.

- **Ransomware** is malicious software that encrypts data on a computer until the hacker gets the money.

- **Gift cards** are an easy way for hackers to steal money by pretending to be someone you trust.