Ethical Hacking

**What is it and how does it help us?**

Myles O'Toole

What Is Hacking?

- Hacking is commonly defined as the **unauthorized access** to data within a system (Merriam-Webster)
- Trying to get in work, school, social accounts, websites, etc.
- Most people identify hacking as breaching a system with harmful intent, but there are different types of hacking.

Ethical Hacking, What's The Difference?
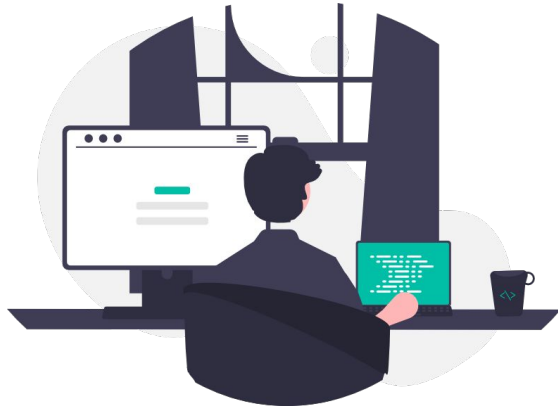
- Ethical hacking involves **authorized access** into information systems

- Seeks to find bugs and breaches

- To protect against outside threats

- Ultimate goal to enhance security

- Report vulnerabilities

White Hat vs. Black Hat vs. Gray Hat

White Hat

- Legal
- Good intentions
- Authorized

Black Hat

- Illegal
- Bad intentions
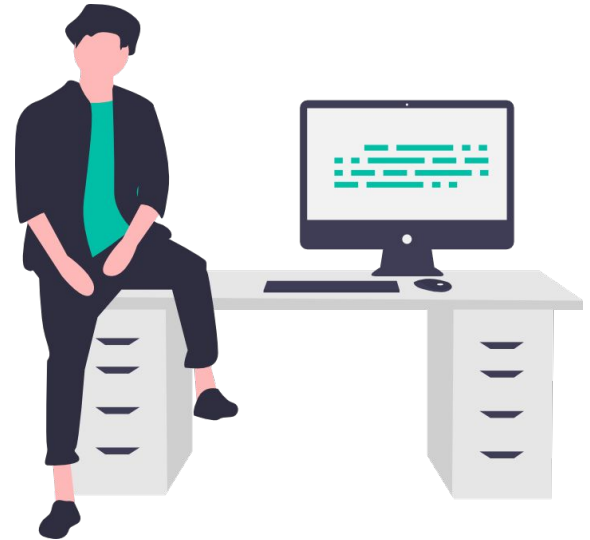- **Unauthorized**

Gray Hat

- Illegal
- Good intentions
- **Unauthorized**

Allowed To Hack?

- Ethical hackers are either given permission from owner or hired by companies

- Given **authorized access** into the system to perform security checks

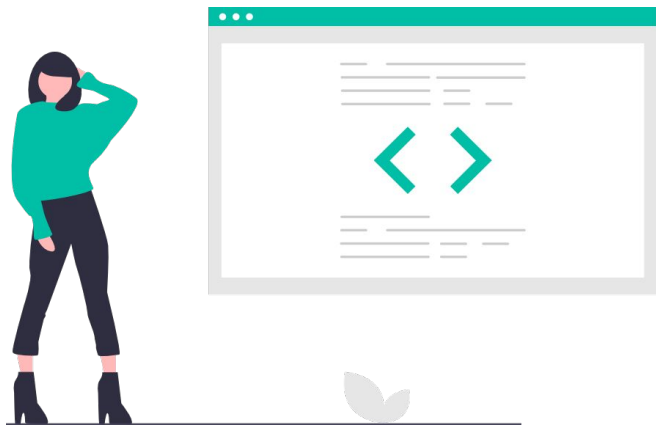- Find possible security breaches

- Good intentions

How Do They Do It?

- Sign non-disclosure agreement

- Find vulnerabilities

- Remove all evidence of their hacking, to prevent an outside attack

- Give company next steps to take

- Knowing responsibility

- Following ethics and guidelines (Simplilearn)
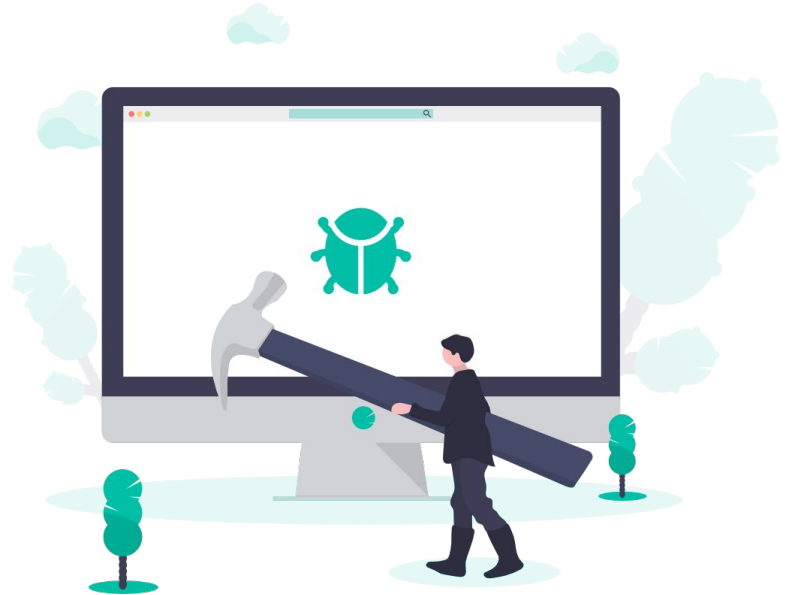
Is It Legal?

- Having authorized access to an information system is legal

- Regardless of your intent, breaking into an unauthorized system is **illegal** (Simplimind)

- Black hat hackers and gray hat hackers both technically illegal

What Are The Benefits?

- Ethical hacking brings room for job openings

- Increased cybersecurity

- Safer networks, databases, personal information

- Inform the public of dangers in a cyber world
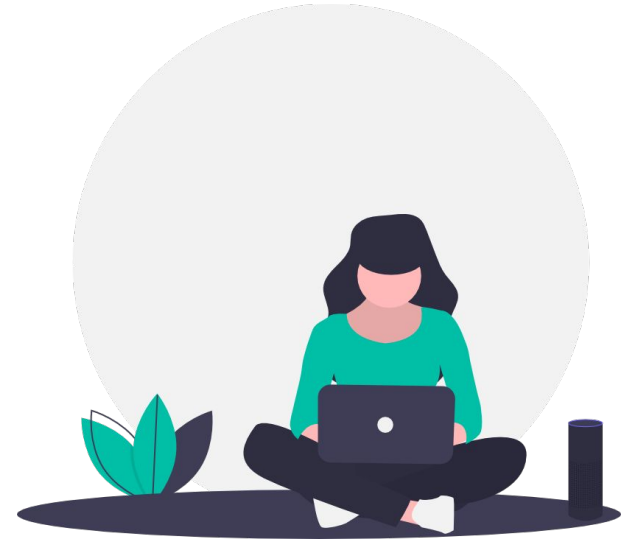
Becoming an Ethical Hacker

- Have knowledge on multiple operating systems

- Knowing how to use certain tools

- Get ethical hacking certified (Simplilearn)

- Have knowledge of scripting, programming, networking and databases

- Average ethical hacker salary 90k (Simplilearn)

References

Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). *Hacking Definition & Meaning*. Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Retrieved November 30, 2021, from https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hacking.

Simplilearn. (2021, November 17). *What is Ethical Hacking and Type of Ethical Hackers*. Simplilearn.com. Retrieved December 1, 2021, from https://www.simplilearn.com/tutorials/cyber-security-tutorial/what-is-ethical-hacking.