

Issue Study 5: The Dark Web OR Hacktivism

Hacktivism is also known as political hacking which basically refers to the utilization of hacking to promote a political cause. Hacktivism is similar to Activism but the only difference is that hacktivism is on the internet. For both of these to be legal it should follow Civil Disobedience. It must be nonviolent and should not cause any damage to any person or property. The act should be ethically motivated for the common good and not for personal profit. One must be willing to take responsibility and be ready for the consequences of their actions. One example of hacktivism is the Operation Darknet. This attack was carried on by a hacking group named anonymous. The hacking group took down around 40 sites that promoted child pornography. This occurred in the year 2011. During the activity the group released around 1500 names of people who used a site named "Lolita City". The hacking group used DDoS attack to make the site go offline after the previously taken down the links to the content reappeared. The shutting down of sites and shared usernames of people who frequently used one of the sites was the outcome of this hacktivism. This urged the U.S Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Interpol to work on the case. I think the sharing of names didn't harm anyone or any property. However, as the article mentioned that there could be a possibility that the action could have put the children at risk. The hacking group (anonymous) did not do this to seek any personal profit and it was for the common good of people. I think this case of hacktivism can be justified through the Civil Disobedience because even though it violates some of the aspects of Civil Disobedience there is some good coming from it.