1. **Introduction to Cyber Crime Definition**: Cyber crime is defined as any unlawful act where a computer or communication device (like a smartphone) is used to commit or facilitate a crime.

In simple terms, traditional crimes (like theft or fraud) that are committed using digital technology are called cyber crimes.

The Core Concept (The Two Categories): To understand cyber crime, you must understand the role of the computer. It is generally classified into two categories:

A. Computer as the TARGET Here, the criminal attacks the computer itself. The goal is to damage, steal, or disrupt the system.

Examples:

Hacking: Breaking into a system to steal data.

DoS Attack (Denial of Service): Crashing a server so real users can't use it.

Virus/Worm Attacks: Spreading malicious software to corrupt files.

B. Computer as the TOOL Here, the computer is just a weapon used to commit a real-world crime. The crime could have been done physically, but the computer makes it easier and faster.

Examples:

Cyberbullying: Harassing someone online (instead of in person).

Credit Card Fraud: Stealing money digitally (instead of robbing a bank).

Child Pornography: Distributing illegal content using the internet.

2. Characteristics of Cyber Crime Why is it different from traditional crime?

Borderless: A hacker in one country can attack a victim in another country instantly. There are no physical borders.

Anonymity: Criminals can easily hide their identity behind fake IP addresses or usernames. You often don't know who is attacking you.

Speed: A cyber crime can affect millions of people in seconds (e.g., a virus spreading via email).

Low Risk, High Reward: Unlike robbing a bank physically (where you might get shot or caught on camera), cyber crime can be done from a bedroom with less immediate physical risk.

3. **Who are the Cyber Criminals? Hackers**: Expert programmers who break into systems (can be good or bad).

Crackers: Malicious hackers who break into systems specifically to cause damage or steal.

Insiders: Disgruntled employees who sell company secrets.

Hacktivists: People who hack to promote a political or social cause.

■ Important for Exam (India Context) In India, cyber crimes are legally governed by the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act 2000). It provides the legal framework for electronic commerce and cyber offenses.

Section 66: Deals with hacking and computer offenses.

Section 67: Deals with publishing obscene material online.

Summary for your Notes:

Definition: Crime involving a computer/network.

Two Types: Computer as Target (Hacking) vs. Computer as Tool (Fraud).

Key Law: IT Act, 2000.