

Cyber Attacks: Objectives, Types, and Causes

Understanding Modern Threats in
the Digital World

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Introduction to Cyber Attacks

- Definition: A cyber attack is a malicious attempt to disrupt, damage, or gain unauthorized access to a computer system, network, or data.
- Growing threat in today's digital landscape
- Affects individuals, businesses, and governments

Objectives of Cyber Attacks

- Data Theft – Stealing sensitive personal or organizational data
- Disruption – Causing system failures or interruptions (e.g., DDoS)
- Financial Gain – Through ransomware, fraud, etc.
- Espionage – Spying for political, military, or corporate purposes
- Hacktivism – Promoting political or social agendas

Types of Cyber Attacks

- Malware – Viruses, worms, trojans, spyware
- Phishing – Deceptive emails or websites to steal information
- Denial of Service (DoS) / DDoS – Overloading systems to crash them
- Man-in-the-Middle (MitM) – Intercepting communications
- SQL Injection – Exploiting vulnerabilities in databases
- Zero-day Exploit – Attacks on unknown system

Causes of Cyber Attacks

- Weak Passwords – Easy to guess or reused passwords
- Outdated Software – Security flaws not patched
- Lack of Awareness – Social engineering & phishing success
- Insider Threats – Malicious or careless employees
- Poor Network Security – Open ports, lack of firewalls, etc.

Real-World Examples

- WannaCry (2017) – Ransomware that affected 200,000+ systems globally
- SolarWinds Attack (2020) – State-sponsored espionage attack
- Equifax Breach (2017) – Personal data of 147 million people exposed

How to Prevent Cyber Attacks

- Use strong, unique passwords
- Enable multi-factor authentication (MFA)
- Regularly update software and systems
- Educate users about phishing and scams
- Use antivirus and firewalls
- Backup important data regularly

Conclusion

- Cyber attacks are evolving and becoming more sophisticated
- Understanding their objectives, types, and causes helps in prevention
- Awareness and strong cybersecurity practices are key

Q&A

- Any Questions?