



Module Flow

1

Social Engineering Concepts

4

**Impersonation on Social
Networking Sites**

2

Social Engineering Techniques

5

Identity Theft

3

InsiderThreats

6

Countermeasures

What is Social Engineering?

- Social engineering is the art of **convincing people** to **reveal confidential information**
- Common targets of social engineering include **help desk personnel, technical support executives, system administrators**, etc.
- Social engineers depend on the fact that **people are unaware** of the valuable information to which they have access and are careless about protecting it

Impact of Attack on an Organization



- Economic losses
- Damage of goodwill
- Loss of privacy
- Dangers of terrorism
- Lawsuits and arbitration
- Temporary or permanent closure

Behaviors Vulnerable to Attacks

- Authority
- Intimidation
- Consensus
- Scarcity
- Urgency
- Familiarity
- Trust
- Greed



What is Social Engineering? (Cont'd)

Factors that Make Companies Vulnerable to Attacks

- Insufficient security training
- Unregulated access to information
- Several organizational units
- Lack of security policies



Why is Social Engineering Effective?

- Security policies are as strong as their weakest link, and **human behavior** is the most **susceptible factor**
- It is **difficult to detect** social engineering attempts
- There is **no method that can be applied to ensure complete security** from social engineering attacks
- There is **no specific software or hardware** to defend against a social engineering attack

Phases of a Social Engineering Attack



Research the Target Company

- Dumpster diving, websites, employees, tour of the company, etc.



Select a Target

- Identify frustrated employees of the target company



Develop a Relationship

- Develop a relationship with the selected employees



Exploit the Relationship

- Collect sensitive account and financial information, as well as current technologies



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Types of Social Engineering

Human-based Social Engineering

🚫 Sensitive information is gathered **by interaction**

- 🚫 Techniques:
- 🚫 Impersonation
 - 🚫 Dumpster Diving
 - 🚫 Diversion Theft
 - 🚫 Vishing
 - 🚫 Reverse Social Engineering
 - 🚫 Honey Trap
 - 🚫 Eavesdropping
 - 🚫 Piggybacking
 - 🚫 Baiting and Quid Pro Quo
 - 🚫 Shoulder Surfing
 - 🚫 Tailgating
 - 🚫 Elicitation

Computer-based Social Engineering

🚫 Sensitive information is gathered with the **help of computers**

- 🚫 Techniques:
- 🚫 Phishing
 - 🚫 Spam Mail
 - 🚫 Scareware
 - 🚫 Pop-up Window Attacks
 - 🚫 Instant Chat Messenger

Mobile-based Social Engineering

🚫 Sensitive information is gathered with the **help of mobile apps**

- 🚫 Techniques:
- 🚫 Publishing Malicious Apps
 - 🚫 Repackaging Legitimate Apps
 - 🚫 Using Fake Security Apps
 - 🚫 SMiShing (SMS Phishing)

Human-based Social Engineering

Impersonation

- The attacker **pretends to be someone legitimate or an authorized person**
- Attackers may **impersonate** a legitimate or authorized person either personally or using a **communication medium** such as phone, email, etc.
- Impersonation helps attackers to **trick a target** into revealing **sensitive information**
- The most common human-based social engineering technique

Impersonation Examples

Posing as a legitimate end user

- The attacker gives this identity and asks for the sensitive information

"Hi! This is John from the Finance Department. I have forgotten my password. Can I get it?"

Posing as an important user

- The attacker poses as a VIP of a target company, valuable customer, etc.

"Hi! This is Kevin, CFO Secretary. I'm working on an urgent project and lost my system's password. Can you help me out?"

Posing as a technical support agent

- The attacker poses as technical support staff and requests IDs and passwords

"Sir, this is Matthew, Technical Support, X company. Last night we had a system crash here, and we are checking for the lost data. Can you give me your ID and password?"

Human-based Social Engineering (Cont'd)

Eavesdropping

- **Unauthorized listening of conversations**, or reading of messages
- Interception of audio, video, or written communication
- Can be done using **communication channels** such as telephone lines, email, instant messaging, etc.



Shoulder Surfing

- Direct observation techniques such as **looking over someone's shoulder** to get information such as passwords, PINs, account numbers, etc.
- Can also be done from a farther distance with the aid of **vision enhancing devices** such as binoculars



Dumpster Diving

- **Looking for treasure in someone else's trash**
- Involves collecting **phone bills, contact information, financial information**, operations-related information, etc. from the target company's trash bins or printer bins, or user desks (e.g., sticky notes), etc.



Human-based Social Engineering (Cont'd)

Reverse Social Engineering

- The attacker presents him/herself as an **authority** and the target seeks his or her advice before or after offering the information that the attacker needs

Piggybacking

- An authorized person intentionally or unintentionally allows an **unauthorized person** to pass through a secure door e.g., "I forgot my ID badge at home. Please help me"

Tailgating

- The attacker, wearing a **fake ID badge**, enters a secured area by closely following an authorized person through a door that requires key access

Diversion Theft

- The attacker **tricks a person responsible for making a genuine delivery** into delivering the consignment to a location other than the intended location

Human-based Social Engineering (Cont'd)

Honey Trap

- Attackers target a person inside the company online, pretending to be an attractive person. They then begin a fake online relationship to obtain **confidential information** about the target company

I Baiting

- Attackers offer end users something alluring in exchange for important information such as **login details** and other sensitive data
- A physical device such as **USB flash drive** containing malicious files is left in a location where people can easily find it

Quid Pro Quo

- Attackers call numerous **random numbers** within a company, claiming to be from technical support
- They offer their service to end users in exchange for confidential data or login credentials

Elicitation

- Attackers extract information from the victim by engaging him/her in normal and **disarming conversations**
- Based on the victim's interests, attackers must work to target their elicitation approach to extract the relevant information

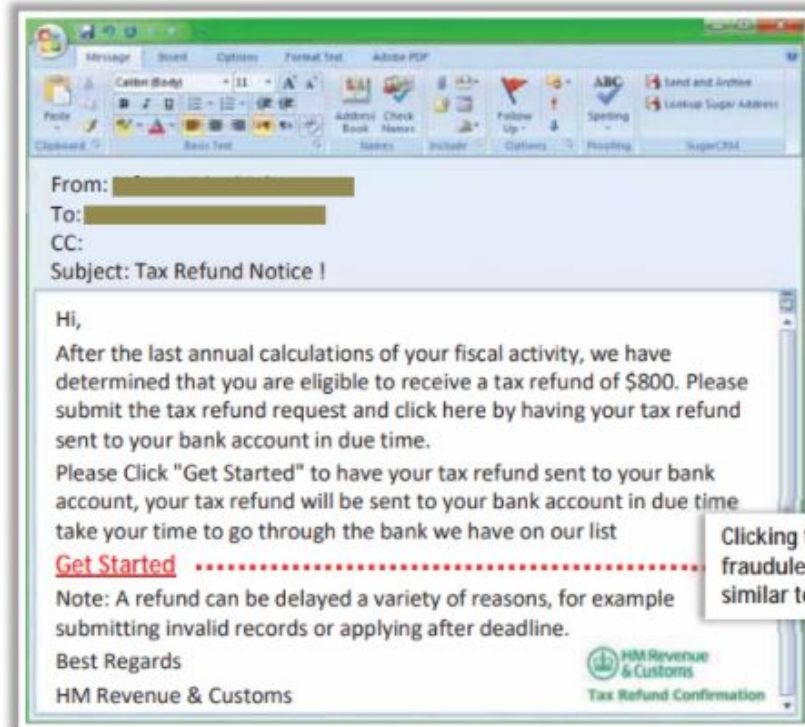
Computer-based Social Engineering

Pop-Up Windows	Windows that suddenly pop up while surfing the Internet and ask for user information to login or sign-in
Hoax Letters	Emails that issue warnings to the user about new viruses, Trojans, or worms that may harm the user's system
Chain Letters	Emails that offer free gifts such as money and software on condition that the user forwards the mail to a specified number of people
Instant Chat Messenger	Gathering personal information by chatting with a selected user online to get information such as birth dates and maiden names
Spam Email	Irrelevant, unwanted, and unsolicited emails that attempt to collect financial information, social security numbers, and network information
Scareware	Malware that tricks computer users into visiting malware infested websites , or downloading/buying potentially malicious software

Computer-based Social Engineering: Phishing



- Phishing is the practice of **sending an illegitimate email** claiming to be from a **legitimate site** in an attempt to **acquire a user's personal or account information**
- Phishing emails or pop-ups **redirect users to fake webpages** that mimic trustworthy sites, which ask them to submit their personal information



Clicking the link directs you to a fraudulent web page that looks similar to a genuine HMRC page

Computer-based Social Engineering: Phishing (Cont'd)



Types of Phishing

Spear Phishing

- A **targeted phishing attack** aimed at **specific individuals** within an organization
- Attackers send spear phishing to send a message with specialized, social engineering content **directed at a specific person**, or a **small group of people**

Whaling

- An attacker **targets high profile executives** like CEOs, CFOs, politicians, and celebrities who have complete access to confidential and highly valuable information
- The attacker tricks the victim into revealing critical corporate and personal information through **email or website spoofing**

Pharming

- The attacker **redirects web traffic** to a fraudulent website by installing a malicious program on a personal computer or server
- Also known as “phishing without a lure”, and performed by using **DNS Cache Poisoning** or **Host File Modification**

Spimming

- A **variant of spam** that **exploits Instant Messaging platforms** to flood spam across the networks
- Attacker uses **bots to harvest Instant Message IDs** and spread spam

Phishing Tools

ShellPhish

ShellPhish is a phishing tool used to **phish user credentials from various social networking platforms** such as Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.



BLACKEYE

<https://github.com>



PhishX

<https://github.com>



Modlishka

<https://github.com>



Trape

<https://github.com>



Evilginx

<https://github.com>

```
Parrot Terminal
File Edit View Search Terminal Help

[root@parrot]-[/shellphish]
# ./shellphish.sh

ShellPhish

... Phishing Tool coded by: @linuz

Disclaimer: Developers assume no liability
responsible for any misuse or damage caused.

[01] Instagram      [09] Origin          [17]
[02] Facebook       [10] Steam            [18]
[03] Snapchat       [11] Yahoo             [19]
[04] Twitter        [12] LinkedIn          [99]
[05] Github         [13] Protonmail
[06] Google         [14] Wordpress
[07] Spotify        [15] Microsoft
[08] Netflix        [16] InstaFollowers

[*] Choose an option: 1

[*] IP Found!
[*] Victim IP: 66
[*] User-Agent: User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; Win64; x64)
AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/78.0.3904.70 Safari/537.36
[*] Saved: instagram/saved.ip.txt

[*] Hostname: google
[*] Reverse DNS: 52
[*] IP Continent: North America (NA)
[*] IP Country: United States
[*] City Location: Unknown
[*] ISP: Google
[*] AS Number:
[*] IP Address Speed: Corporate Internet Speed
[*] IP Currency: United States dollar($) (USD)

[*] Waiting Credentials and Next IP, Press Ctrl + C to exit...

[*] Credentials Found!
[*] Account: @gmail.com
[*] Password:
[*] Saved: sites/instagram/saved.usernames.txt

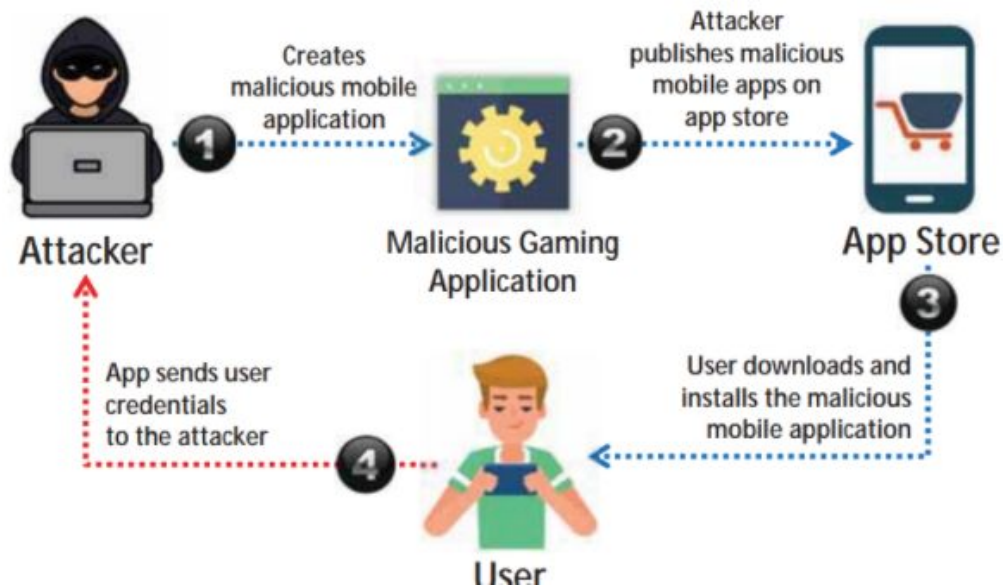
[*] Waiting Next IP and Next Credentials, Press Ctrl + C to exit...
```

<https://github.com>

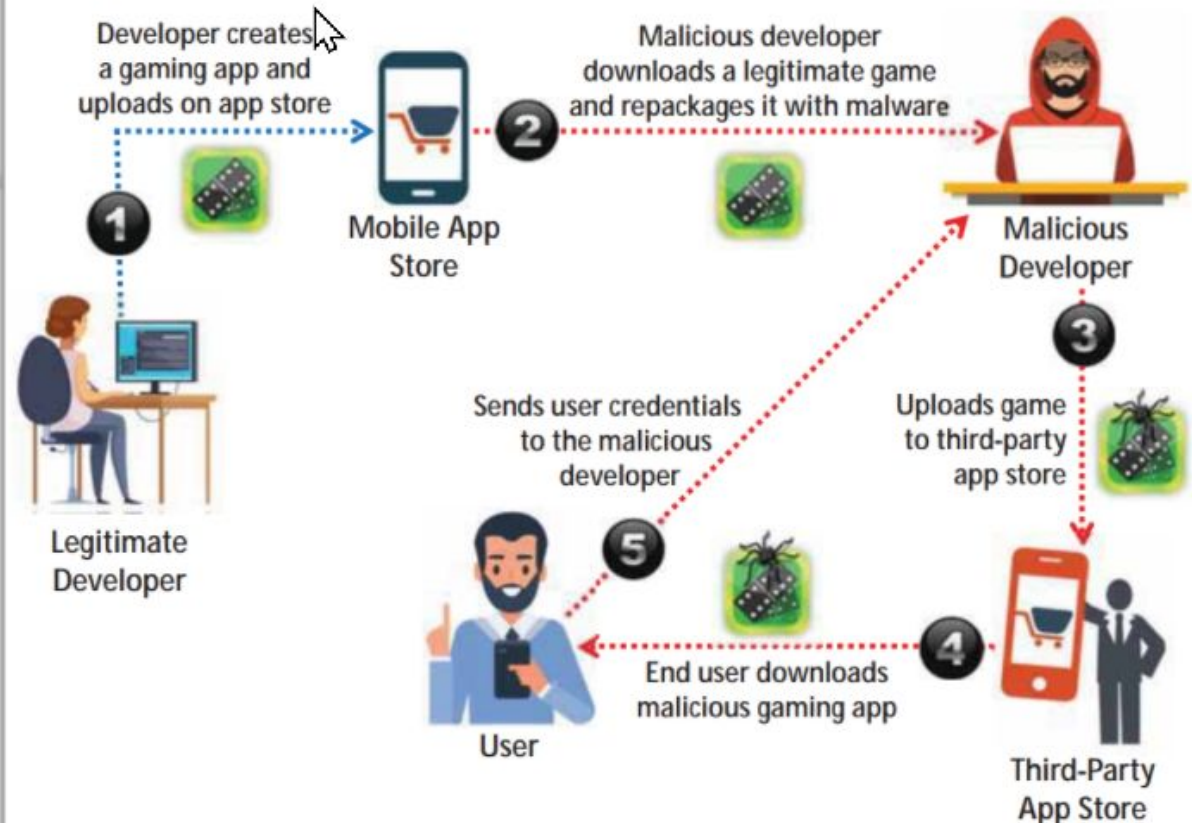
Mobile-based Social Engineering: Publishing Malicious Apps and Repackaging Legitimate Apps

Publishing Malicious Apps

- Attackers create **malicious apps** with attractive features and **similar names** to popular apps, and publish them in major app stores
- Users download these apps** unknowingly and are infected by malware that sends **credentials to attackers**

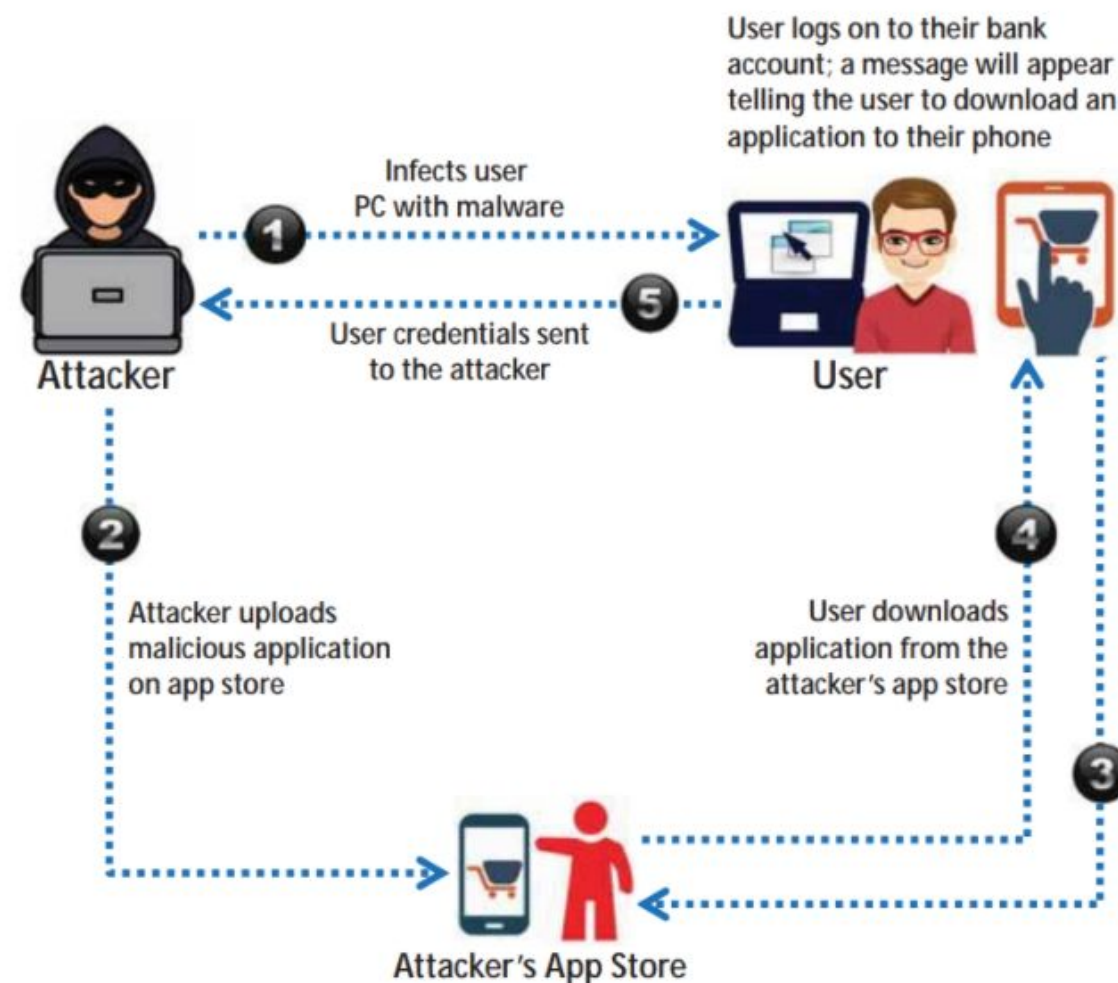


Repackaging Legitimate Apps



Mobile-based Social Engineering: Fake Security Applications

- 1 Attacker infects the **victim's PC**
- 2 Attacker **uploads a malicious app** to an app store
- 3 Victim logs into his or her **bank account**. Malware in the system displays a **pop-up message** telling the victim to **download an app** onto his or her phone to receive security messages
- 4 Victim **downloads the malicious app** on his or her phone
- 5 At this point, the attacker can **access two-factor authentication** information sent to the victim from the bank via SMS

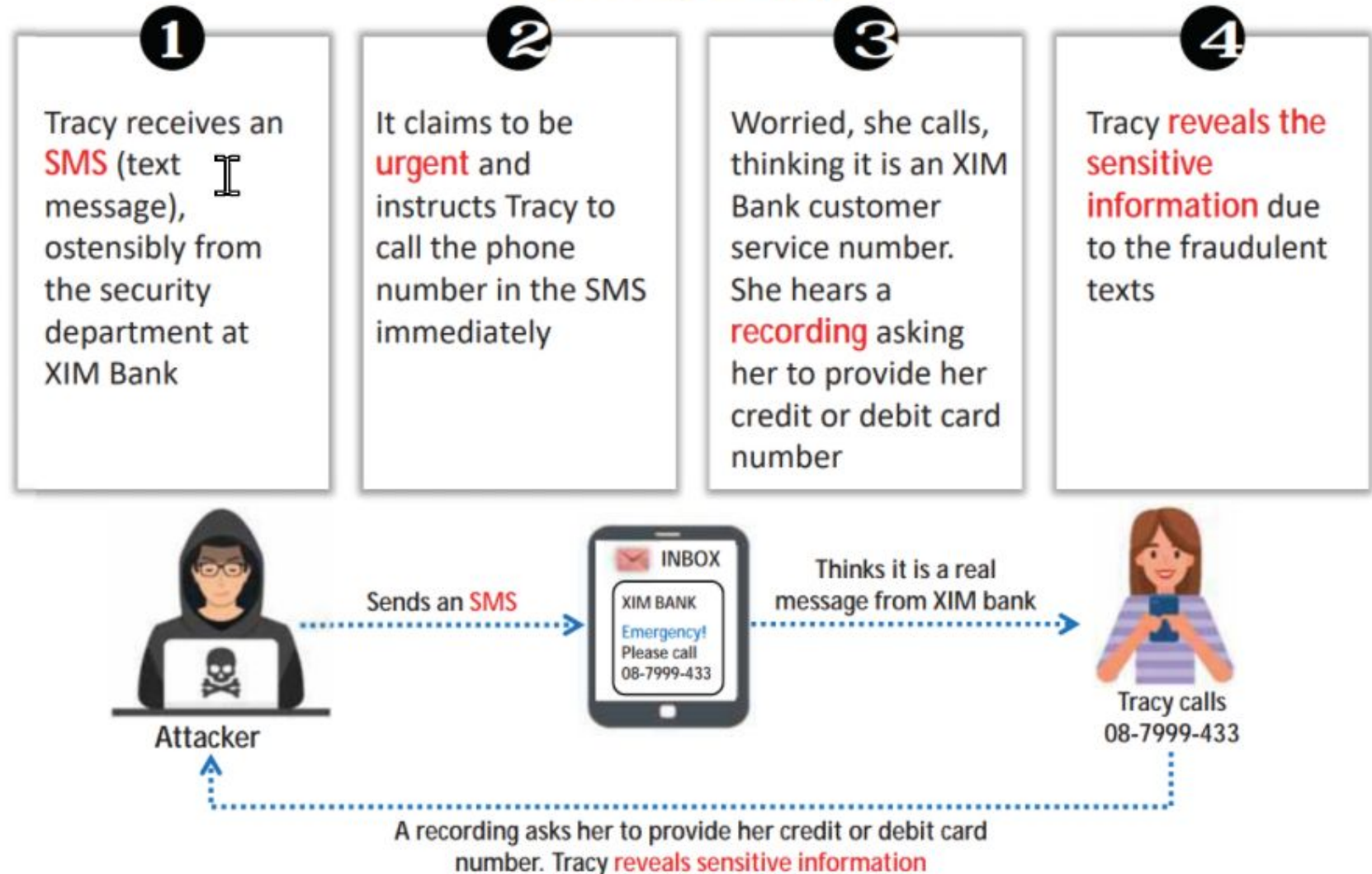


Mobile-based Social Engineering: SMiShing (SMS Phishing)

- SMiShing (SMS phishing) is the act of using **SMS text messaging system** of cellular phones or other mobile devices to **lure users into instant action**, such as downloading malware, visiting a malicious webpage, or calling a fraudulent phone number
- SMiShing messages are generally crafted to provoke an instant action from the victim, requiring them **to divulge their personal information and account details**



SMiShing Example



Insider Threats/Insider Attacks

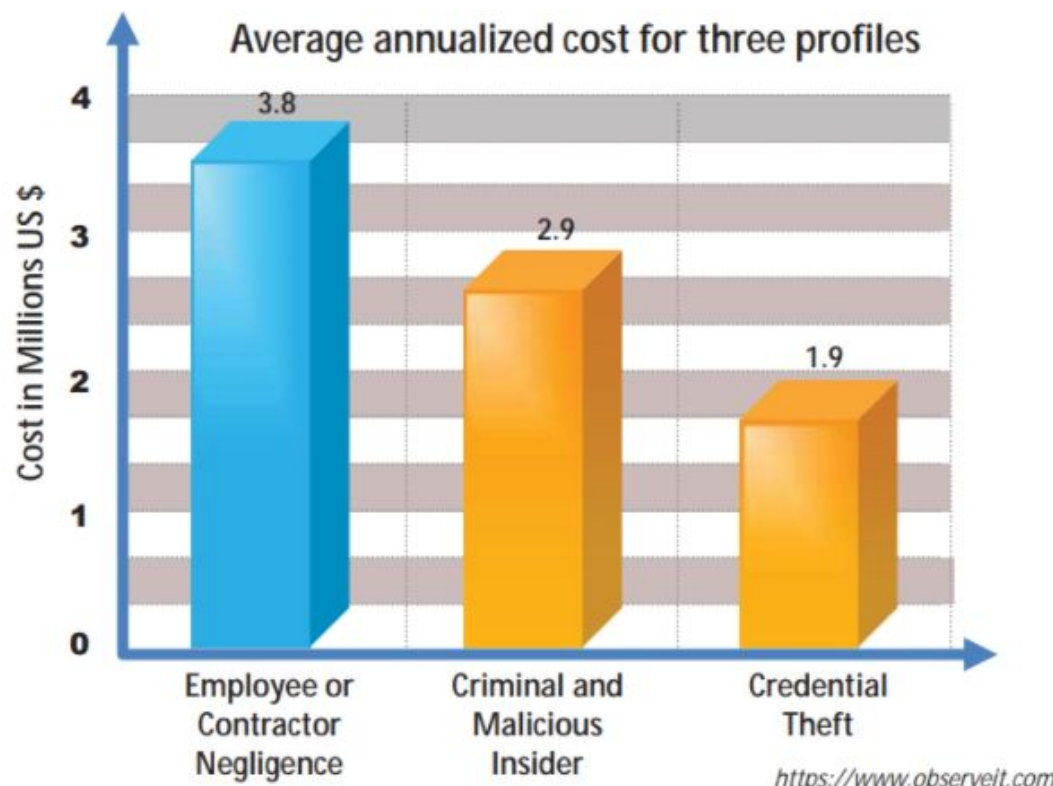
- An insider is any **employee** (trusted person or people) who have **access to critical assets** of an organization
- An insider attack involves using privileged access to intentionally **violate rules** or **cause threat to the organization's information** or information systems in any form
- Such attacks are generally performed by a privileged user, **disgruntled employee**, **terminated employee**, accident-prone employee, **third party**, undertrained staff, etc.

Reasons for Insider Attacks

- Financial gain
- Steal confidential data
- Revenge
- Become future competitor
- Perform competitor's bidding
- Public announcement

InsiderThreatStatistics

According to a 2018 Cost of Insider Threats Study, an **attack performed by employee or contractor negligence** is costlier than criminal or malicious insider attacks and credential theft



Types of Insider Threats

Malicious Insider

- A **disgruntled or terminated employee** who steals data or destroys the company's networks intentionally by **introducing malware** into the corporate network

Negligent Insider

- Insiders who are **uneducated on potential security threats** or who simply bypass general security procedures to meet workplace efficiency

Professional Insider

- Harmful insiders who use their technical knowledge to **identify weaknesses and vulnerabilities** in the company's network and **sell confidential information to competitors** or black market bidders

Compromised Insider

- An insider with **access to critical assets** of an organization who is **compromised by an outside threat actor**

Why are Insider Attacks Effective?

- Easy to launch
- Prevention is difficult
- Succeed easily
- Employees can easily cover their tracks
- Differentiating harmful actions from the employee's regular work is very difficult
- Can go undetected for years and remediation is very expensive

Behavioral Indications of an Insider Threat

- 1** Data exfiltration alerts
- 2** Missing or modified network logs
- 3** Changes in network usage patterns
- 4** Multiple failed login attempts
- 5** Behavioral and temperament changes
- 6** Unusual time and location of access
- 7** Missing or modified critical data
- 8** Unauthorized downloading or copying of sensitive data
- 9** Logging of different user accounts from different systems
- 10** Temporal changes in revenue or expenditure
- 11** Unauthorized access to physical assets
- 12** Increase or decrease in productivity of employee
- 13** Inconsistent working hours
- 14** Unusual business activities

Social Engineering through Impersonation on Social Networking Sites



Attacker

Organization Details

Professional Details

Contacts and Connections

Personal Details



01

- Malicious users **gather confidential information** from social networking sites and create accounts using another person's name

02

- Attackers use these fraudulent profiles to create large networks of friends and **extract information** using social engineering techniques

03

- Attackers attempt to join the target **organization's employee groups** where personal and company information is shared

04

- Attackers may also use collected information to carry out other forms of **social engineering attacks**

Impersonation on Facebook

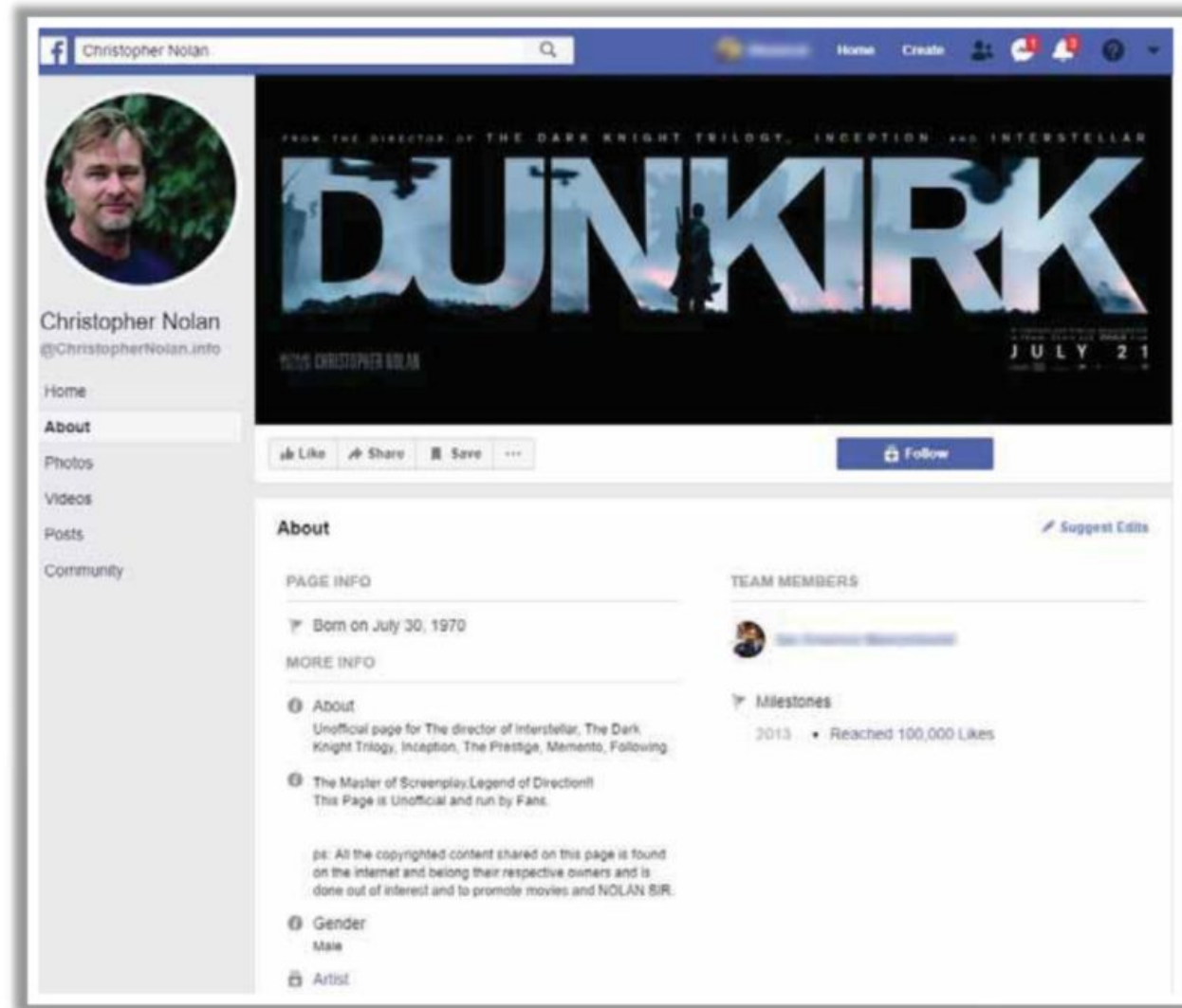
■ The attacker creates a **fake user group** on Facebook labeled as for "Employees of" the target company

■ Using a **false identity**, the attacker then proceeds to "friend" or invite employees to the fake group

■ Users join the group and **provide their credentials** such as date of birth, educational and employment backgrounds, spouses' names, etc.

■ Using the details of any of these employees, the attacker can **compromise** a secured facility to **gain access** to the building

■ Attackers scan details in **profile pages**. They use these for spear phishing, impersonation, and identity theft



Social Networking Threats to Corporate Networks



1

Data Theft

2

Involuntary Data Leakage

3

Targeted Attacks

4

Network Vulnerability

5

Spam and Phishing

6

Modification of Content

7

Malware Propagation

8

Damage to Business Reputation

9

**Infrastructure and Maintenance
Costs**

10

Loss of Productivity

Identity Theft

- Identity theft is a crime in which **an imposter steals your personally identifiable information** such as name, credit card number, social security or driver's license numbers, etc. to commit fraud or other crimes
- Attackers can use identity theft to **impersonate employees of a target** organization and physically access facilities

Types of Identity Theft



- Child identity theft
- Criminal identity theft
- Financial identity theft
- Driver's license identity theft
- Insurance identity theft

- Medical identity theft
- Tax identity theft
- Identity cloning and Concealment
- Synthetic identity theft
- Social security identity theft



Social Engineering Countermeasures



- **Good policies** and **procedures** are ineffective if they are not taught and reinforced by employees
- After receiving training, employees should **sign a statement** acknowledging that they understand the policies
- The main objectives of social engineering defense strategies are to **create user awareness**, **robust internal network controls**, and secure policies, plans, and processes

Password Policies

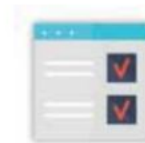
- Periodic password changes
- Avoiding guessable passwords
- Account blocking after failed attempts
- Increasing length and complexity of passwords
- Improving secrecy of passwords

Physical Security Policies

- Identification of employees by issuing ID cards, uniforms, etc.
- Escorting visitors
- Restricting access to work areas
- Proper shredding of useless documents
- Employing security personnel

Defense Strategy

- Social engineering campaign
- Gap analysis
- Remediation strategies



Social Engineering Countermeasures (Cont'd)



1 Train individuals on **security policies**

2 Implement proper **access privileges**

3 Presence of proper **incidence response time**

4 Availability of resources only to **authorized users**

5 Scrutinize information

6 Background check and proper **termination process**

7 **Anti-virus/anti-phishing** defenses

8 Implement **two-factor authentication**

9 Adopt documented **change management**

10 Ensure software is **regularly updated**