Lab 5

21st century hackers

Hacking has transformed throughout the years, when the internet was first introduced in the early 2000’s “hacking” was done without malice as hackers weren’t trying to hurt one another; it was done more to see how far their internet intelligence could be tested and how far their curiosity could go. As the internet gained popularity the black hat hackers saw the potential on what they could hack. In response to the damages the black hat hackers caused white hat hackers started forming companies to protect people's online information. Their mission was to spot hard to find vulnerabilities also known as “bugs”. White hat hackers would openly invite people to find them and would pay them if they could hack the system. This was also done by companies like Microsoft who paid hacker children as young as 5 years old who could bypass their parental controls on their XBOX. The word hacking is not necessarily a bad word, Hackers are a very diverse community of software engineers, tinkerers, hobbyists, academics and security researchers. Crime has always been here since dawn of time, the unique trait that hacking does is give the availability for someone to commit a crime when they aren't close to each other for example someone can be in a different state or even in a different country to commit a crime. The most common and basic way of hacking is by sending a ransomware virus. It is introduced by sending an unsolicited email or email address that looks familiar but contains a change so minuet you don't even notice. The email would begin by telling you to click on a link that infects your computer as soon as its opened, the virus then grabs every personal file on your computer and locks them up with encryptions that make your personal information inaccessible to you, unless you pay a fee to retrieve the key or password otherwise it will be gone forever. Ransomware viruses are the most popular and profitable for hackers to do, since most people don't have detailed backups for their data they get trapped into paying the ransom.