The Causes of CyberCrime

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Abstract:- **Cybercrime involves a computer and a network and a computer is an object used for crime. The computer also can be used as a tool to commit an offense. The computer can also be the target of the crime. The internet is a wonderful place to engage us with a lot more of activities……but for whom? There is a possibility that many of us can become victims of the criminals hacking the internet. This paper highlights the overview of cybercrime, the main causes of cybercrimes, the different types of cybercrimes, and their prevention methods.**

Keywords:- cybercrime, causes for cybercrime, types of cybercrime, prevention methods for cyber crimes.

I. INTRODUCTION

The internet is a growing space where users can perform a lot more than just searching. With such a phenomenal growth of the internet also comes many opportunities for cybercrimes. Cybercriminals use the computer and internet technology to hack user's smartphones, personal details, business secrets, etc. criminals performing such activities are called –Hackers. Cybercriminals are targeting more consumers as well as public and private organizations. These crimes are rising due to the lack of cybersecurity.

All types of cybercrimes consist of both the person and the computer. Cybercrime includes everything. An important form of cybercrime is identity theft, in which the hacker uses the internet to steal one's personal information. Stealing millions of dollars from online bank accounts is also a crime. Cybercrime can also include creating and distributing some programs written by programmers called viruses on someone else computer or porting someone's confidential business information on the internet to harm them. 'Account takeover' is an example of one type of cybercrime. An incident occurred at the South Carolina' Department of Revenue' that illustrates this cybercrime. Cybercriminals broke into the department's computer system and stole 3.6 million social security numbers and 387,000 credit/debit card numbers.[1]

One of the best ways to protect your sensitive information and to stop these criminal acts is to use a unified system of software and hardware to authenticate any information that is accessed over the internet. Many laws and methods have been introduced to prevent cybercrime and criminals are laid down by penalties.

II. OBJECTIVE

This paper deals with variants of cybercrimes. It also includes its impact on the real world and society. It also specifies how one can be prevented from illegal practices.

III. CAUSES OF CYBERCRIME

Cybercrime targets rich people or rich organizations like casinos, banks, and financial firms where a tremendous amount of money comes daily and hackers can easily hack sensitive information. It is an easy way to make big money. Catching these criminals is difficult. The number of cybercrimes across the globe is increasing on a daily basis. Various laws are required to safeguard the use of computers against various vulnerabilities. Following are the various reasons listed for the vulnerability of computers:

➢ **Capacity to store data in comparatively small space-** one unique characteristic of a computer is that it can store your data in a considerable small space. This makes it easy for the criminal to steal our data from the system and they use it for their own profit.
➢ **Negligence-** This is a characteristic of human conduct. While protecting the computer system we can make any negligence which makes it easy for the criminal to have access and control over your computer system.
➢ **Easy to access-** Due to the complex technology used, it is difficult to protect a computer system from unauthorized access. Hackers can steal information that can fool biometric systems easily and bypass firewalls need to be used to get past many security systems.
➢ **Loss of evidence-** The data with the crime can be destroyed easily. So while investigating a cybercrime, loss of evidence is a very common issue.

IV. TYPES OF CYBERCRIMES

➢ **Piracy or Theft:** Such types of crime occur when a person violates copyrights and download games, movies, music, and software. Various laws that prevent people from illegal downloading of any files. Film producers and directors are often the victims of this type of crime.
➢ **Hacking:** This sends illegal commands to any other system. Here individual's personal information can be accessed by hacking his/her computer. The person hacking the information can use much software to crack into a person's computer and the person may not even be aware that his computer is being used by someone else sitting at the remote location.

- ➢ **Cyber Terrorism:** This is also known as information walls. It is an act of internet terrorism that includes large scale attacks of computer networks. It creates a feeling of terrorism in the mind of the victim.
- ➢ **Cybercrime against an individual:**
- • **Spamming:** Spam is the abuse of the electronic messaging system to send unsolicited bulk messages.
- • **E-mail spoofing:** a spoofed email is one that appears to come from one source but actually it has been sent from some other source. The main goal of the attacker over here is to disrupt the receiver's email service by sending him a large number of emails.
- • **Phishing:** In this, the hacker usually fools with the people's money into parting with their money. The hacker has access to the victim's bank account and the funds in it. The customers usually click on the link in the email and get fooled and remain unaware that the fraud has occurred.
- • **Malware:**It is a software that damages a computer system without the owner's knowledge taking control over a person's computer and spreads viruses to other people's devices
- ➢ **Identity Theft:** In this crime, a criminal access user's bank accounts, credit/debit cards and other information that are sensitive for the users to steal money from their accounts or they also buy things online using the victim's name. a victim can face a major financial loss.
- ➢ **Fake news sharing in social media**: Some criminals work on social networking sites to spread different types of rumors. Sharing any illegal link or post on the social media platform is also a crime.
- ➢ **Online illegal selling(Dark web):** Here criminal performs illegal activities such as selling illegal weapons, smuggled goods, drugs, or person's information to the person who is present on an illegal shopping portal. It promotes black marketing.

Victims per year	556 million
Victims per day	Over 1.5 million
Victims per second	18
Identities exposed	More than 232.4 million

Table 1

Yearly cybercrime victim count estimate[2]

V.   PREVENTIVE MEASURES (HOW TO TACKLE CYBERCRIME?)

Cybercriminals don't fight with each other for control.Instead, they come together and work to improve their knowledge and they even help each other for any unethical practice. Hence any general method cannot be used against these criminals.

- ➢ **Use strong passwords:** Maintain a different combination of password and user names for different accounts and don't write them down. If your passwords are weak, they can be easily hacked by different

methods. Make the passwords complicated by using different letters, special characters, and numbers. Change your password regularly. Don't use your names, birthdays, mobile numbers, etc as your passwords.The best way where you can store your password is in your brain. Don't tell your password to anyone.

- ➢ **Secure your mobile devices:**i) Enable your firewall: Firewalls block connections from devices that are unauthorized and they keep out some viruses away from your computer.
- ➢ **Use anti-virus software:** It prevents viruses from entering your computer by installing and regularly updating the anti-virus software on your computer.
- ➢ **Protect your identity online:** Be cautious enough by protecting your identity. While making an online purchase be cautious about revealing your identity.
- ➢ **Parental Control:** Parents should keep an eye on all the activities of their children online. Don't give them too much privacy, it can be problematic. Parents should check their parent's browser history and email accounts regularly. Enable parental control in mobile apps, browsers so that they can access only the registered websites. This will prevent children from online fraud.
- ➢ **Keep your computer current with the latest patches and updates:** Regularly update your computers with various software's available.
- ➢ **Protect your computer with security software:** For your basic online security, download various types of security software. A firewall is like a policeman who has control over who and what to communicate with your computer online.
- ➢ **Avoid being scammed:** Don't reply to any emails that ask you your personal security information(eg. Debit/credit card passwords). Check and verify the source of your message.
- ➢ **Protect your data:** Protect your data by using encryption methods for securing our sensitive files. Fishing is a famous hacking practice.
- ➢ **Call the right person to help:** If you are a victim, don't get panic. Use different websites to get help on cybercrimes.

VI.   CONCLUSION

In today's world, computer crime has a vast effect on its people and organization. Hackers are everywhere across the world. Many government agencies like FBI including private agencies are working on finding these hackers and punish them. We ourselves have some responsibility in protecting our data from frauds. We should make the illiterate ones aware of not sharing their sensitive data with anyone. This is a very difficult task to tackle, as hackers sit in one country and hack the data from the other country. The best way to be safe is to set a unique password and ID for all your accounts on the internet. Finally, if we are using secure websites and the internet properly, then it is difficult for hackers to hack the data.

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