READING ▶ 5:14

Identity Thieves Steal 40 Million Credit Card Numbers

Eleven hackers around the world were accused of stealing more than 40 million credit card numbers on the Internet. They included three people from the U.S. who are accused of hacking into the wireless networks of popular online stores.

Once inside these networks, they searched for customers' credit card numbers, passwords, and personal information so they could pretend to be those customers. When the identity theft was completed, credit card numbers and other details were then sold on the Internet, allowing criminals to withdraw thousands of dollars at a time from ATMs.

Computer Viruses Are Getting Harder to Prevent

"We're losing the battle against computer viruses," says David Farber, professor of computer science at Carnegie Mellon University. These viruses, which can enter computer systems through junk e-mail from hackers, have reached epidemic proportions, slowing down computers—and sometimes causing whole office computer systems to crash—in both large and small companies. In one year alone, they were reported to have caused $13 billion USD in damage.

Companies have been trying for years to protect themselves with anti-virus programs, but criminals are creating newer, improved viruses faster than these programs can keep up with.

Teenager Target of Cyberbullying—from Surprising Source

Megan Meier, age 13, joined an online social networking group where she became online friends with a 16-year-old boy named Josh, who said he lived in a nearby town. Megan and Josh never communicated by phone or in person, but she enjoyed exchanging messages with him in the group.

Over time, Josh changed. He began to bully her daily – criticizing her personality and telling her she was a bad person. Some of their communications were posted so everyone could see them. Josh's last message to her said, "I have friends in your school, and they said everybody there hates you." Megan was so upset. She failed all her classes and she stopped seeing friends. Eventually, she even changed schools.

Months later it was discovered that there was no "Josh." The messages came from the mother of one of Megan's classmates. The mother had been angry because she believed Megan had said

A UNDERSTAND FROM CONTEXT Use the context of the articles to help you to complete each definition.

..... 1 A hacker is . . .	a a software program that causes problems in computers.
..... 2 A computer virus is . . .	b a software program that tries to stop the spread of viruses.
..... 3 A criminal is . . .	c a person who enters computer systems without permission.
..... 4 Junk e-mail is . . .	d a person who steals other people's personal information.
..... 5 An anti-virus program is . . .	e an advertisement you didn't request.
..... 6 A cyberbully is . . .	f a person who breaks the law; for example, by stealing money.
..... 7 An identity thief is . . .	g a person who sends cruel and negative messages to another person online.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B. WRITE AT LEAST ONE GOOD CHANGE AND ONE BAD CHANGE FOR EACH CASE.

1 The Internet has changed the way people find information.

Good changes:

Bad changes:

2 The Internet has changed the way people work in offices.

Good changes:

Bad changes:

3 The Internet has changed the way people shop.

Good changes:

Bad changes:

4 The Internet has changed the way people communicate.

Good changes:

Bad changes:

D Unscramble the letters of the words in the box to complete each sentence.

chatated	clorls	doalwond	esmou	rekcha	rusvi

1 Last year, a ..... got into the company's computer systems and stole important information.

2 Use the ..... to click on a file and open it.

3 It isn't difficult to ..... songs from the Internet.

4 Use the ..... bar to see more text on the screen.

5 Her computer isn't working now because she downloaded a ..... from a piece of junk e-mail.

6 I ..... the photos to the e-mail I sent this morning.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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