Tecnológico Universitario "RUMIÑAHUI"

**English Department**

**Last Name & Name:** **Date:**

**Level:**

**READING: Impact of the Internet**

**INSTRUCTIONS: Read and complete the definitions below.**

## 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 untrue things about her daughter.

..... 1 A hacker is . . .
..... 2 A computer virus is . . .
..... 3 A criminal is . . .
..... 4 Junk e-mail is . . .
..... 5 An anti-virus program is . . .
..... 6 A cyberbully is . . .
..... 7 An identity thief is . . .

a a software program that causes problems in computers.
b a software program that tries to stop the spread of viruses.
c a person who enters computer systems without permission.
d a person who steals other people's personal information.
e an advertisement you didn't request.
f a person who breaks the law; for example, by stealing money.
g a person who sends cruel and negative messages to another person online.

LIVEWORKSHEETS