

## Social Engineering

Module 08

Unmask the Invisible Hacker.











## Social Engineering Statistics



### Phishing



88%

Clicking links within email of all reported phishing

Most common phishing attacks mimicking financial institutions



How much email is sent?

107 Trillion annually

294 Billion each day

90% of all email is spam or virus



77% Percentage of phishing of all socially based attacks

13.3 Million user reported phishing attacks in 2013



### Vishing



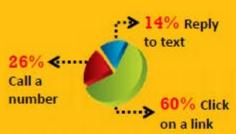
2.4 M customers targeted for phone fraud for all of 2012 2.3 M customers targeted for phone fraud for first half of 2013

Average loss for targeted business \$42,546 per account



60% of US
adults who send
and receive text
messages received
mobile spam in
2012

#### What do Smishers ask for?



### **Impersonation**



Those or

1.8 Million victims of medical theft in 2013 due to websites impersonating medical providers

88% of reported stolen assets were personal data



#### **Average Victims of impersonation**

41.7 year

\$4,187





Top place for thief is work area

According to the survey conducted by Social-Engineer.Org http://www.social-engineer.org

## **Module Objectives**



- Overview of Social Engineering Concepts
- Understanding various Social Engineering Techniques
- Understanding Insider Threats
- Understanding Impersonation on Social Networking Sites

- Understanding Identity Theft
- Social Engineering Countermeasures
- Identity Theft Countermeasures
- Overview of Social Engineering Pen Testing







## **Module Flow**















## 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 their valuable information and are careless about protecting it

### **Impact of Attack on Organization**



**Economic Losses** 



Lawsuits and Arbitrations



Temporary or Permanent Closure



Loss of Privacy



Damage of Goodwill



Dangers of Terrorism

### Behaviors Vulnerable to Attacks





Human nature of trust is the basis of any social engineering attack





**Ignorance about social engineering** and its effects among the workforce makes the organization an easy target





Fear of severe losses in case of non-compliance to the social engineer's request





Social engineers lure the targets to divulge information by promising something for nothing (greediness)





Targets are asked for help and they comply out of a sense of moral obligation



## Factors that Make Companies Vulnerable to Attacks







Insufficient Security Training





Unregulated Access to the Information





Several Organizational Units





Lack of Security Policies

# Why is Social Engineering Effective?





Security policies are as strong as their weakest link, and humans are the most susceptible factor



02

It is difficult to detect social engineering attempts



03

There is no method to ensure complete security from social engineering attacks



04

There is no specific software or hardware for defending against a social engineering attack



### Phases in a Social Engineering Attack





### **Research on Target Company**

Dumpster diving, websites, employees, tour company, etc.



#### **Select Victim**

Identify the frustrated employees of the target company



### **Develop Relationship**

Develop relationship with the selected employees



### **Exploit the Relationship**

Collect sensitive account and financial information, and current technologies

## **Module Flow**















## Types of Social Engineering



### **Human-based Social Engineering**

Gathers sensitive information by interaction



### **Computer-based Social Engineering**

Social engineering is carried out with the help of computers



### **Mobile-based Social Engineering**

It is carried out with the help of mobile applications



## Human-based Social Engineering: Impersonation



It is most common human-based social engineering technique where attacker pretends to be someone legitimate or 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 in tricking a target to reveal sensitive information





## Human-based Social Engineering: Impersonation (Cont'd)





### Posing as a legitimate end user

■ Give identity and ask for the sensitive information

"Hi! This is John, from finance department. I have forgotten my password. Can I get it?"



#### Posing as an important user

Posing 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 password. Can you help me out?"



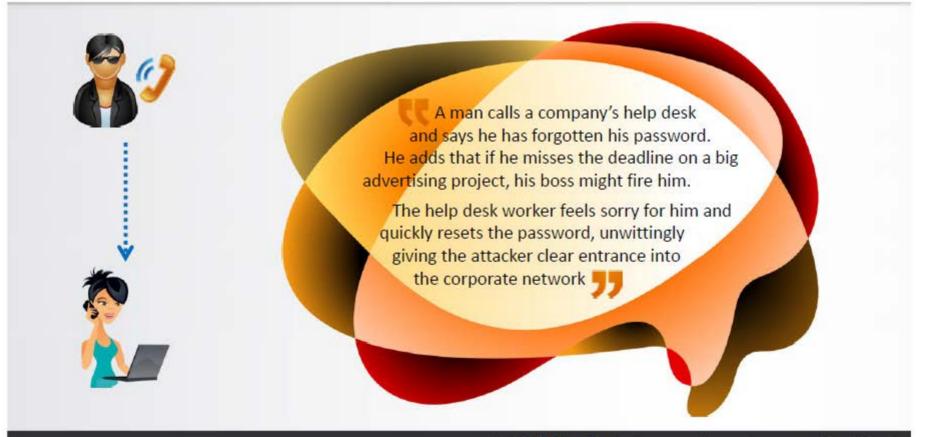
#### Posing as technical support

■ Call as technical support staff and request IDs and passwords to retrieve data "Sir, this is Mathew, Technical support, X company. Last night we had a system crash here, and we are checking for the lost data. Can u give me your ID and password?"

# Impersonation Scenario: Over-Helpfulness of Help Desk



- Help desks are mostly vulnerable to social engineering as they are in place explicitly to help
- Attacker calls a company's help desk, pretends to be someone in a position of authority or relevance and tries to extract sensitive information out of the help desk



## Impersonation Scenario: Third-party Authorization



Attacker obtains the name of the authorized employee of target organization who has access to the information he/she wants



Attacker then call to the target organization where information is stored and claims that particular employee has requested that information be provided





Hi I am John, I spoke with Mr. xyz last week before he went on vacation and he said that you would be able to provide me with this information in his absence."



Target Organization

Authorized Employee

# Impersonation Scenario: Tech Support





- Attacker pretends to be technical support staff of target organization's software vendors or contractors
- He/she may then claims user ID and password for troubleshooting problem in the organization



Attacker: "Hi, this is

Mike with tech support. We have had

some folks in your office report slowdowns in
logging in lately. Is this true?"

Employee: "Yes, it has seemed slow lately."

Attacker: "Well, we have moved you to a new server, so your service should be much better. If you want to give me your password, I can check your service. Things should be better for you now."

# Impersonation Scenario: Repairman



- Attacker may pretend to be telephone repairman or computer technician and enters into target organization
- He/she may then plant a snooping device or gain hidden passwords during activities associated with their duties



## Impersonation Scenarios: Trusted Authority Figure





Hi, I am John Brown. I'm with the external auditors Arthur Sanderson. We've been told by corporate to do a **surprise inspection** of your disaster recovery procedures. Your department has 10 minutes to show me how you would recover from a website crash.



Hi I'm Sharon, a sales rep out of the New York office. I know this is short notice, but I have a group of prospective clients out in the car that I've been trying for months to get to outsource their security training needs to us.

They're located just a few miles away and I think that if I can give them a quick tour of our facilities, it should be enough to push them over the edge and get them to sign up.

Oh yeah, they are particularly interested in what security precautions we've adopted. Seems someone hacked into their website a while back, which is one of the reasons they're considering our company.



Hi, I'm with Aircon Express Services. We received a call that the computer room was getting too warm and need to check your HVAC system. Using professional-sounding terms like HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) may add just enough credibility to an intruder's masquerade to allow him or her to gain access to the targeted secured resource.

### Human-based Social Engineering: Eavesdropping and Shoulder Surfing



#### **Eavesdropping**



- Eavesdropping or unauthorized listening of conversations or reading of messages
- Interception of audio, video, or written communication
- It can be done using communication channels such as telephone lines, email, instant messaging, etc.

### Shoulder Surfing



- Shoulder surfing uses direct observation techniques such as looking over someone's shoulder to get information such as passwords, PINs, account numbers, etc.
- Shoulder surfing can also be done from a longer distance with the aid of vision enhancing devices such as binoculars to obtain sensitive information



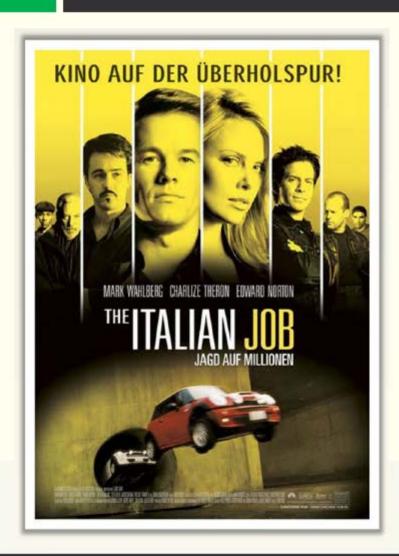
## Human-based Social Engineering: Reverse Social Engineering, Piggybacking, and Tailgating

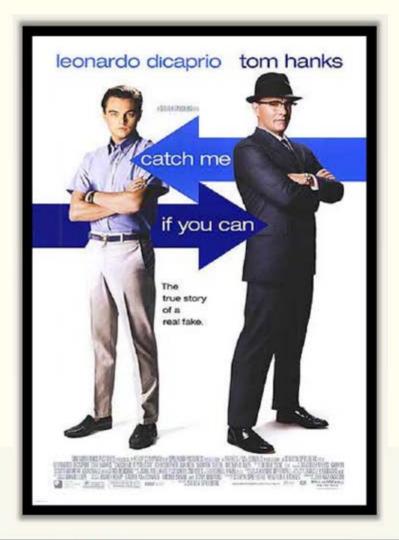




### Watch these Movies







### Watch this Movie



#### **Social Engineering**

In the 2003 movie "Matchstick Men", Nicolas Cage plays a con artist residing in Los Angeles and operates a fake lottery, selling overpriced water filtration systems to unsuspecting customers, in the process collecting over a million dollars

#### **Manipulating People**

This movie is an excellent study in the art of social engineering, the act of manipulating people into performing actions or divulging confidential information



# Computer-based Social Engineering



Pop-up Windows

Windows that suddenly pop up while surfing the Internet and ask for users' information to login or sign-in



Hoax Letters Hoax letters are emails that issue warnings to the user on new viruses, Trojans, or worms that may harm the user's system





Chain Letters Chain letters are emails that offer free gifts such as money and software on the condition that the user has to forward the mail to the said number of persons



Instant Chat Messenger

Gathering personal information by chatting with a selected online user to get information such as birth dates and maiden names



Spam Email Irrelevant, unwanted, and unsolicited email to collect the financial information, social security numbers, and network information



# Computer-based Social Engineering: Phishing





An illegitimate email falsely claiming to be from a legitimate site attempts to acquire the user's personal or account information



Phishing emails or pop-ups redirect users to **fake webpages** of mimicking trustworthy sites that ask them to submit their personal information

Menage Select Options Formal Test Aduble FDF	100
A Control field 11 A A A Subject 12 Address Over 12 Address Ov	Today Spelling Sound Andrew Spelling Sound
From:	
To:	1
CC:	
Subject: Tax Refund Notice !	
36	8
Hi,	
After the last annual calculations of your fiscal act	tivity, we have determined that
request and click here by having your tax refund s	lease submit the tax refund
request and click here by having your tax refund a due time. Please Click "Get Started" to have your tax refund	lease submit the tax refund sent to your bank account in I sent to your bank account,
request and click here by having your tax refund a due time. Please Click "Get Started" to have your tax refund your tax refund will be sent to your bank account	lease submit the tax refund sent to your bank account in I sent to your bank account, in due time take your time to
you are eligible to receive a tax refund of \$800. Pl request and click here by having your tax refund s due time. Please Click "Get Started" to have your tax refund your tax refund will be sent to your bank account go through the bank we have on our list Get Started	lease submit the tax refund sent to your bank account in I sent to your bank account, in due time take your time to Clicking the link directs you to a
request and click here by having your tax refund a due time. Please Click "Get Started" to have your tax refund your tax refund will be sent to your bank account go through the bank we have on our list	lease submit the tax refund sent to your bank account in it sent to your bank account, in due time take your time to Clicking the link directs you to a fraudulent web page which look
request and click here by having your tax refund a due time. Please Click "Get Started" to have your tax refund your tax refund will be sent to your bank account go through the bank we have on our list Get Started Note: A refund can be delayed a variety of reason for example submitting invalid records or applyin	lease submit the tax refund sent to your bank account in if sent to your bank account, in due time take your time to Clicking the link directs you to a fraudulent web page which looks, similar to a genuine HMRC page
request and click here by having your tax refund a due time. Please Click "Get Started" to have your tax refund your tax refund will be sent to your bank account go through the bank we have on our list Get Started	lease submit the tax refund sent to your bank account in if sent to your bank account, in due time take your time to Clicking the link directs you to a fraudulent web page which looks, similar to a genuine HMRC page

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ddress Informatio	<u>n</u> - Please enter your name	and ad	dress as y	ou have i	it listed for your credit card.
	Cardholder Name:				
	Date of Birth:	Day 💌	Month *	Year Y	
	Mother Maiden Name:			1/1	
	Address:				
	Town/City:				
	Postal Code:				
	Phone Number:				
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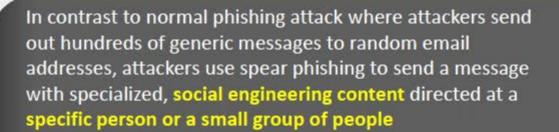
http://www.hmrc.gov.uk

# Computer-based Social Engineering: Spear Phishing





Spear phishing is a direct, targeted phishing attack aimed at specific individuals within an organization









Spear phishing generates higher response rate when compared to normal phishing attack





## Mobile-based Social Engineering: Publishing Malicious Apps





Attackers create malicious apps with attractive features and similar names to that of popular apps, and publish them on major app stores



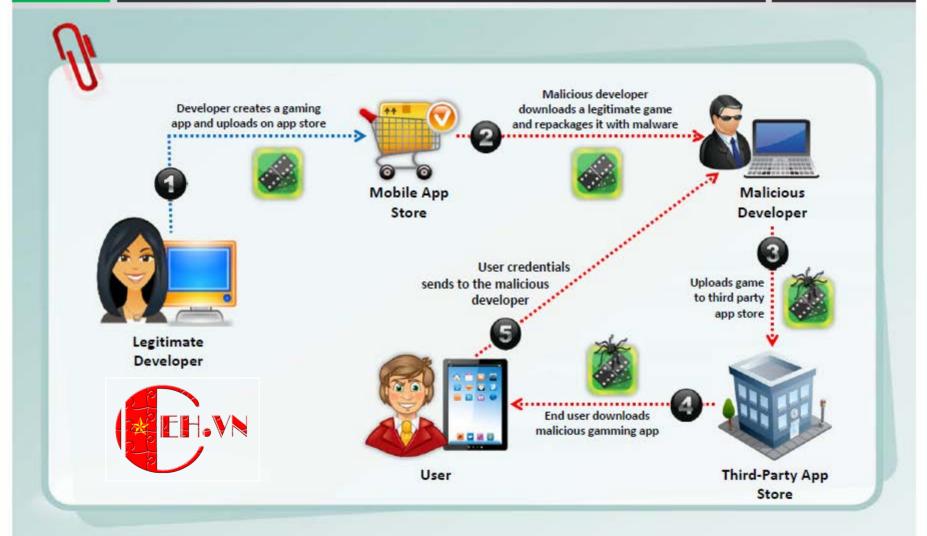


Unaware users download these apps and get infected by malware that sends credentials to attackers



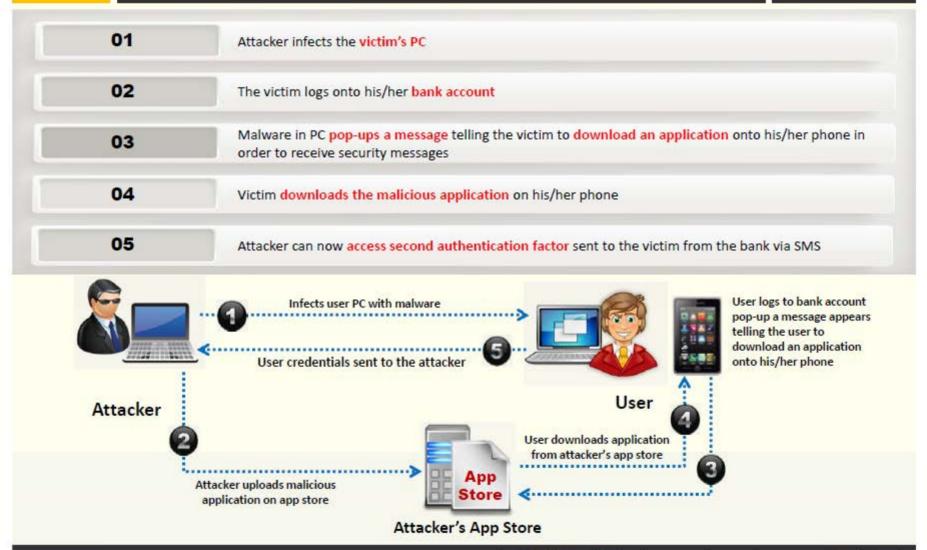
### Mobile-based Social Engineering: Repackaging Legitimate Apps





## Mobile-based Social Engineering: Fake Security Applications





## Mobile-based Social Engineering: Using SMS



Tracy received
an SMS text
message,
ostensibly from
the security
department at XIM
Bank

It claimed to be urgent and that Tracy should call the phone number in the SMS immediately. Worried, she called to check on her account.

She called thinking it was a XIM Bank customer service number, and it was a recording asking to provide her credit card or debit card number

Predictably,
Tracy revealed the
sensitive
information due to
the fraudulent texts



Thinking it is XIM Bank customer service number



Tracy calling to 08-7999-433

It was a recording asking to provide her credit card or debit card number. Tracy revealed sensitive information

### **Insider Attack**



**Spying** 

If a competitor wants to cause damage to your organization, steal critical secrets, or put you out of business, they just have to **find a job opening**, prepare someone to pass the interview, have that person hired, and they will be in the organization

Revenge

It takes only **one disgruntled person** to take revenge and your company is compromised

Insider Attack

- An inside attack is easy to launch
- Prevention is difficult
- The inside attacker can easily succeed







1

An employee may become disgruntled towards the company when he/she is disrespected, frustrated with their job, having conflicts with the management, not satisfied with employment benefits, issued an employment termination notice, transferred, demoted, etc.

2

Disgruntled employees may pass company secrets and intellectual property to competitors for monetary benefits



## **Preventing Insider Threats**





There is no single solution to prevent an insider threat





Social Engineering Targets	Attack Techniques	Defense Strategies		
Front office and help desk	Eavesdropping, shoulder surfing, impersonation, persuasion, and intimidation	Train employees/help desk to never reveal passwords or other information by phone		
Perimeter security	Impersonation, fake IDs, piggy backing, etc.	Implement strict badge, token or biometric authentication, employee training, and security guards		
Office	Shoulder surfing, eavesdropping, Ingratiation, etc.	Employee training, best practices and checklists for using passwords Escort all guests		
Phone (help desk)	Impersonation, Intimidation, and persuasion on help desk calls	Employee training, enforce policies for the help desk		
Mail room	Theft, damage or forging of mails	Lock and monitor mail room, employee training		
Machine room/ Phone closet  Attempting to gain access, remove equipment, and/or attach a protocol analyzer to grab the confidential data		Keep phone closets, server rooms, etc. locked at all times and keep updated inventory on equipment		

## **Module Flow**















## Social Engineering Through Impersonation on Social Networking Sites









Attackers use others' profiles to create large networks of friends and extract information using social engineering techniques

names

Malicious users gather confidential information from social networking sites and create accounts in others'

Organization Details

Professional Details

Contacts and Connections

Personal Details

Attackers try to join the target organization's employee groups where they share personal and company information

Attackers can also use collected information to carry out other forms of social engineering attacks

# Social Engineering on Facebook





Attackers create a fake user group on Facebook identified as "Employees of" the target company

Using a false identity, attacker then proceeds to "friend," or invite, employees to the fake group, "Employees of the company"

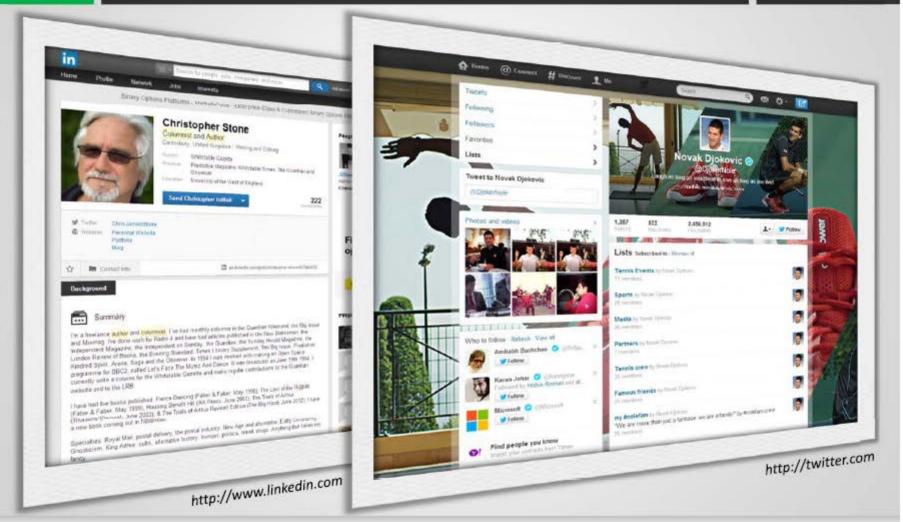
Users join the group and provide their credentials such as date of birth, educational and employment backgrounds, spouses names, etc.

Using the details of any one of the employee, an attacker can compromise a secured facility to gain access to the building

http://www.facebook.com

# Social Engineering on LinkedIn and Twitter

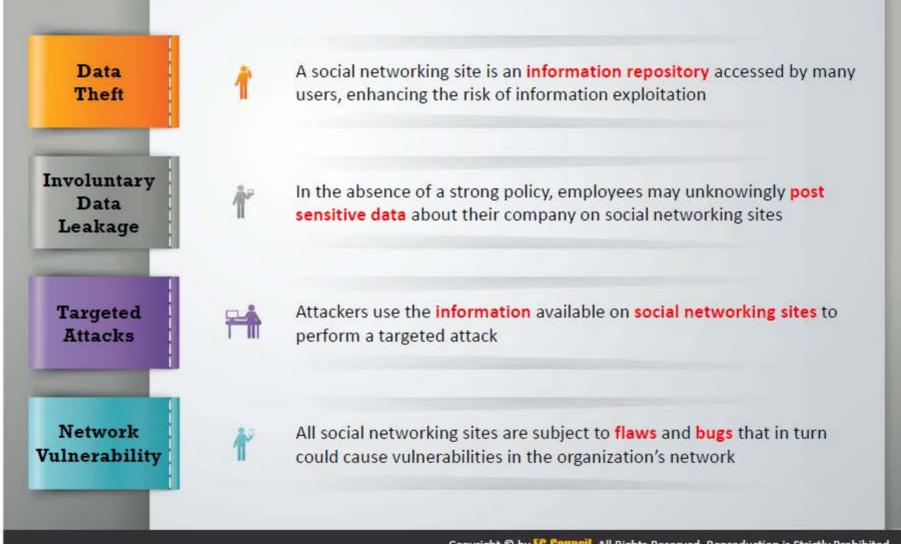




Attackers scan details in profile pages. They use these details for spear phishing, impersonation, and identity theft.

## Risks of Social Networking to **Corporate Networks**





## **Module Flow**









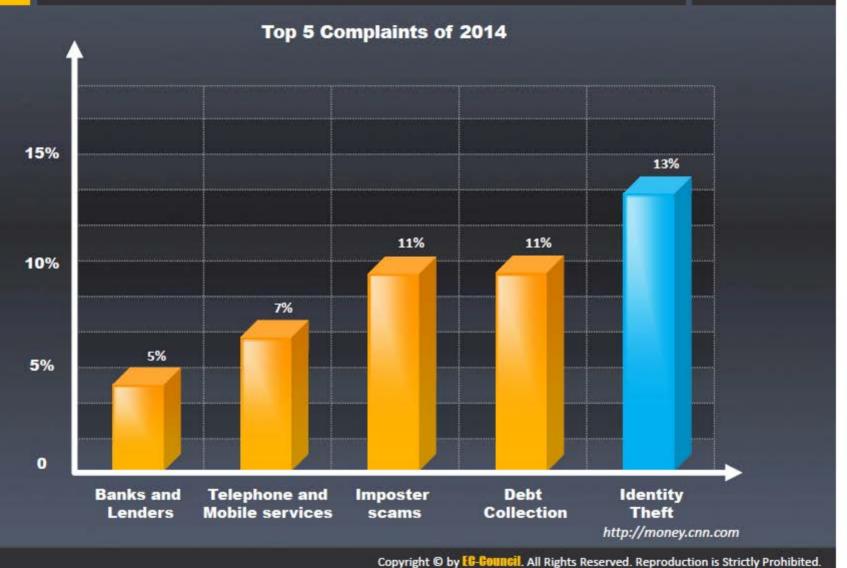






## **Identity Theft Statistics**





## **Identify Theft**



1.

Identity theft occurs when someone steals your personally identifiable information for fraudulent purposes

2.

It is a crime in which an imposter obtains personal identifying information such as name, credit card number, social security or driver license numbers, etc. to commit fraud or other crimes

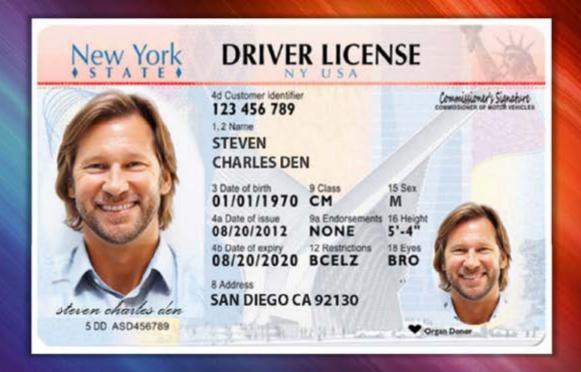
3.

Attackers can use identity theft to impersonate employees of a target organization and physically access the facility

## How to Steal an Identity



Original identity – Steven Charles
Address: San Diego CA 92130



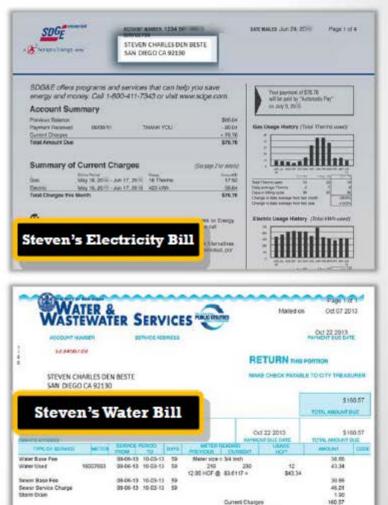
Note: The identity theft illustration presented here is for demonstrating a typical identity theft scenario. It may or may not be used in all location and scenarios.

### STEP 1



- Search for Steven's address on social networking sites
   (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) or on people search sites
- Get hold of Steven's telephone bill, water bill, or electricity bill using dumpster diving, stolen email, or onsite stealing





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\$160.57









Go to the **Department of Motor Vehicles** and tell them you lost your driver license



They will ask you for proof of identity such as a water bill and electricity bill



Show them the stolen bills



Tell them you have moved from the original address



The department employee will ask to complete replacement of the driver license form and change in address form



You will need a photo for the driver license



Your replacement driver license will be issued to your new home address



Now you are ready to have some serious fun



## Comparison



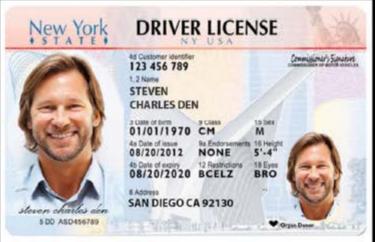




Same name: Steven Charles

**Identity Theft** 







### STEP 3



- Go to a bank in which the original Steven Charles has an account and tell them you would like to apply for a new credit card
- Tell them you do not remember the account number and ask them to look it up using Steven's name and address
- The bank will ask for your ID: Show them your driver license as ID, and if the ID is accepted, your credit card will be issued and ready for
- Now you are ready for shopping





# Real Steven Gets Huge Credit Card Statement





Account Number 1234-567-690			Statement Closing Date 01-31-14		S40, 000	
STEVEN CHARLES DEN BESTE SAN DIEGO CA 92130				MAIL PAYMENT TO:		
872919345 00176255000000000			E00000000	halfoothilla bella blad balla blad blad blad blad blad		
STEVI S ( ( ) Account S Previ Puro	tember Na EN CHAR Statement Closing Da Credit Limi New Balan Summary lous Balan hases:	Date: 02- te: 01- t \$5 ce: \$46 /	Account Num 1234-456-8 01-14 31-14 0, 000 0, 000	Payment Due Date:  Credit Available:  Minimum Payment Du  Transaction Fees: Annual Fees:	+0 +0	
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Reference Number	Sold	Posted	Activity	Since Last Statement	Amount	
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### **Identity Theft - Serious Problem**



- Identity theft is a serious problem and number of violations are increasing rapidly
- Some of the ways to minimize the risk of identity theft include checking the credit card reports periodically, safeguarding personal information at home and in the workplace, verifying the legality of sources, etc.





http://www.ftc.gov

### **Module Flow**



Social Engineering Concepts Identity Theft

Social Engineering Techniques

Social Engineering Countermeasures

Impersonation on Social Networking Sites

Penetration Testing

# Social Engineering Countermeasures



- Good policies and procedures are ineffective if they are not taught and reinforced by the employees
- After receiving training, employees should sign a statement acknowledging that they understand the policies

	Password Policies	Physical Security Policies		
1	Periodic password change	1	Identification of employees by issuing ID cards, uniforms, etc.	
2	Avoiding guessable passwords	2	Escorting the visitors	
3	Account blocking after failed attempts	3	Access area restrictions	
4	Length and complexity of passwords	4	Proper shredding of useless documents	
5	Secrecy of passwords	5	Employing security personnel	





1

#### **Training**



An efficient training program should consist of all security policies and methods to increase awareness on social engineering



#### **Operational Guidelines**



Make sure sensitive information is secured and resources are accessed only by authorized users

3

#### **Access Privileges**



There should be administrator, user, and guest accounts with proper authorization



#### Classification of Information



Categorize the information as top secret, proprietary, for internal use only, for public use, etc.

5

#### Proper Incidence Response Time



There should be proper guidelines for reacting in case of a social engineering attempt

6

### **Background Check and Proper Termination Process**



Insiders with a criminal background and terminated employees are easy targets for procuring information

# Social Engineering Countermeasures (Cont'd)









Anti-Virus/Anti-Phishing Defenses Use **multiple layers** of anti-virus defenses at end-user and mail gateway levels to minimize social engineering attacks

Two-Factor Authentication



Instead of fixed passwords, use two-factor authentication for high-risk network services such as VPNs and modem pools

Change Management

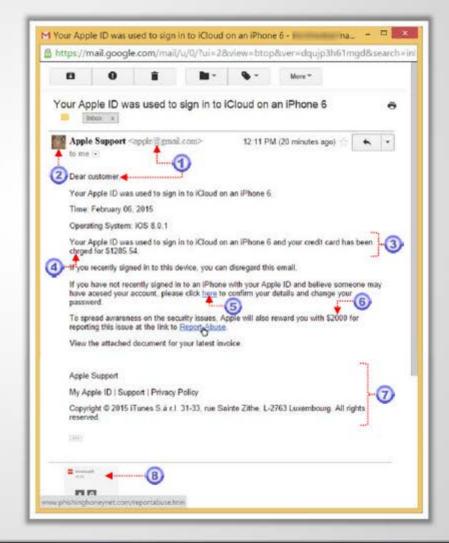


A documented change-management process is more secure than the ad-hoc process

### **How to Detect Phishing Emails**

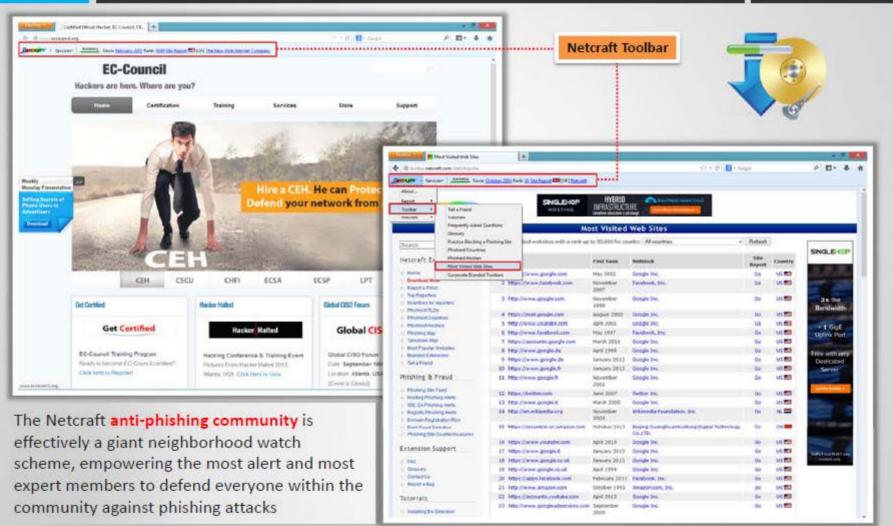






## Anti-Phishing Toolbar: Netcraft





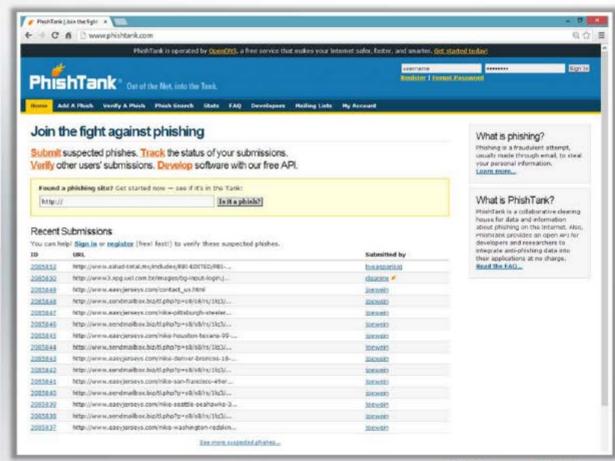
http://toolbar.netcraft.com

# Anti-Phishing Toolbar: PhishTank



- PhishTank is a collaborative clearing house for data and information about phishing on the Internet
- It provides an open API for developers and researchers to integrate anti-phishing data into their applications





http://www.phishtunk.com





Secure or shred all documents containing private information



To keep your mail secure, empty the mailbox quickly

Ensure your name is not present in the marketers' hit lists



Suspect and verify all the requests for personal data

Review your credit card reports regularly and never let it go out of sight



Protect your personal information from being publicized

Never give any personal information on the phone



Do not display account/contact numbers unless mandatory

## **Module Flow**



Social Engineering Concepts Identity Theft

Social Engineering Techniques Social Engineering Countermeasures

Impersonation on Social Networking Sites



### **Social Engineering Pen Testing**



The objective of social engineering pen testing is to test the strength of human factors in a security chain within the organization

Social engineering pen testing is often used to raise level of security awareness among employees

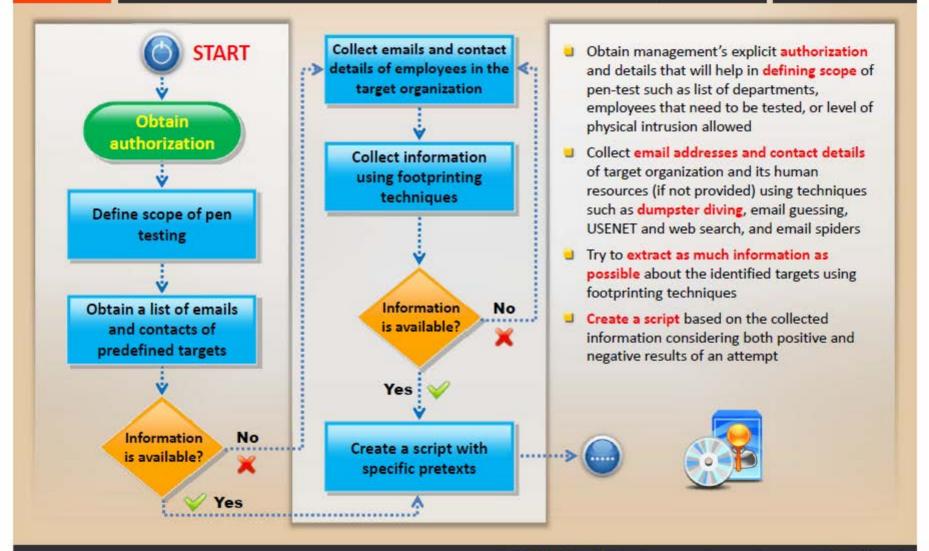
Tester should demonstrate extreme care and professionalism for social engineering pen test as it might involve legal issues



### Social Engineering Pen Testing

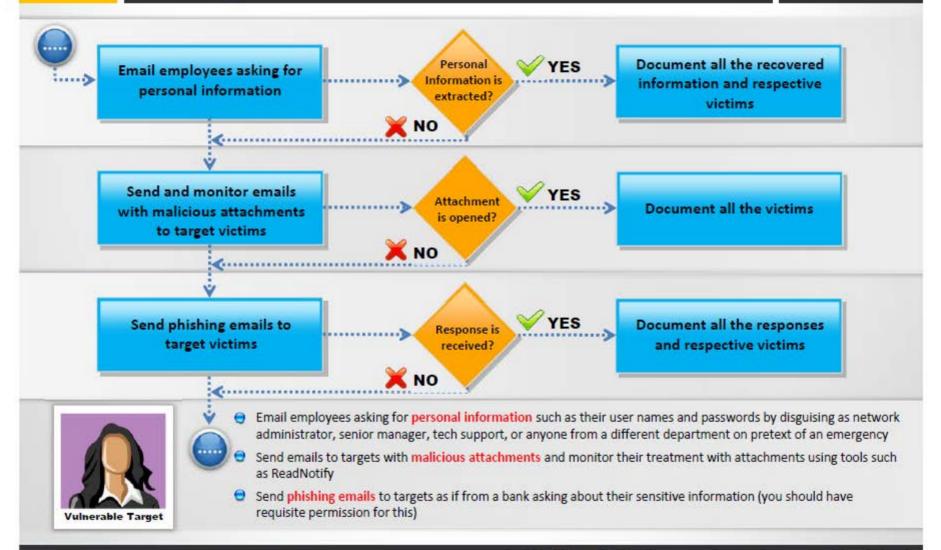


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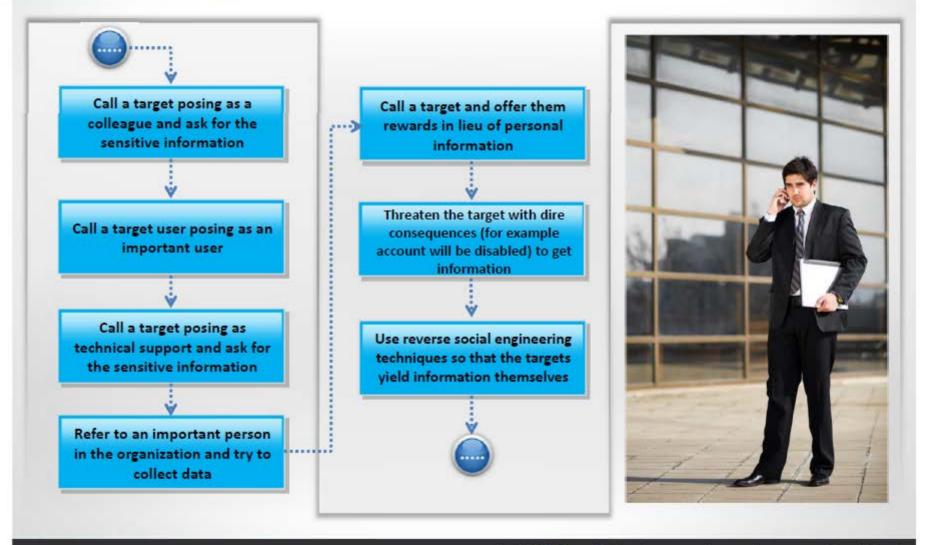
# Social Engineering Pen Testing: Using Emails





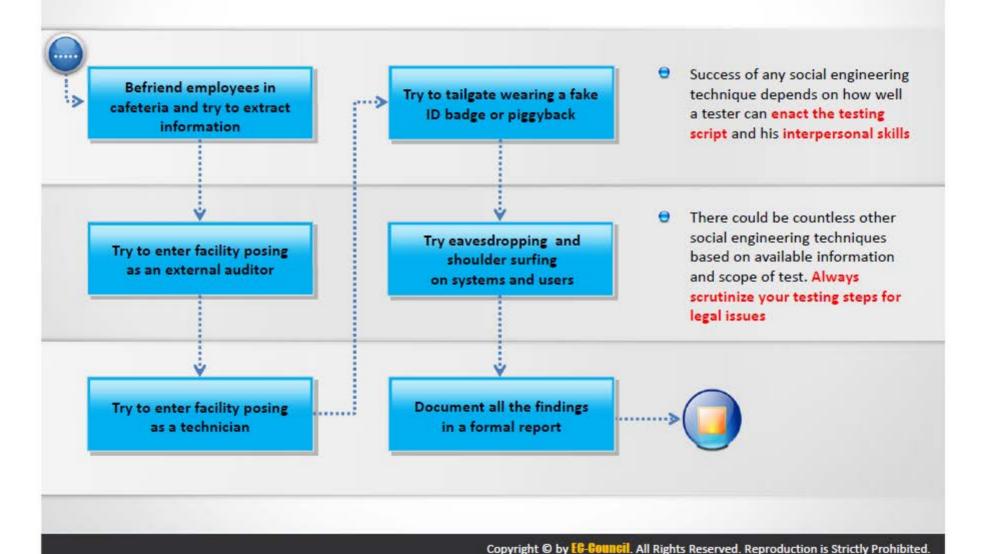
# Social Engineering Pen Testing: Using Phone





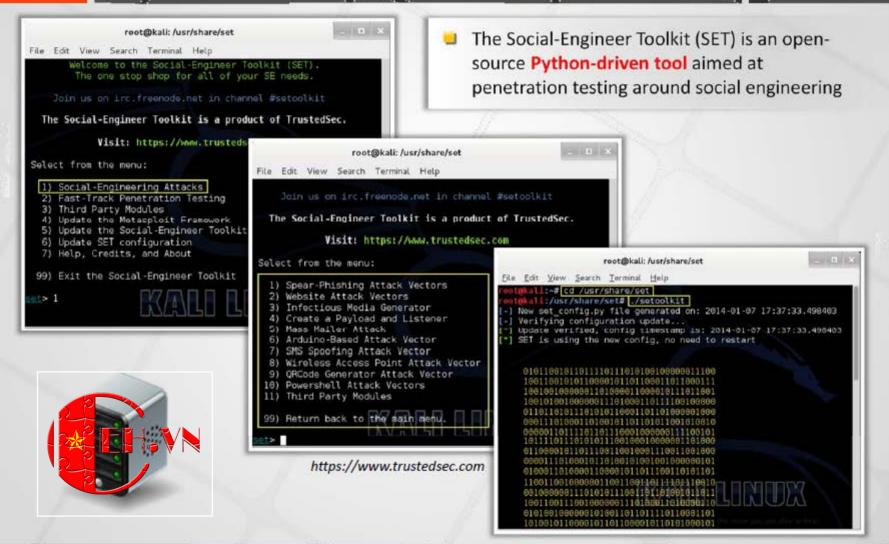
# Social Engineering Pen Testing: In Person





### Social Engineering Pen Testing: Social Engineering Toolkit (SET)





## **Module Summary**



- Social engineering is the art of convincing people to reveal confidential information
- Social engineering involves acquiring sensitive information or inappropriate access privileges by an outsider
- Attackers attempt social engineering attacks on office workers to extract sensitive data
- Human-based social engineering refers to person-to-person interaction to retrieve the desired information
- Computer-based social engineering refers to having computer software that attempts to retrieve the desired information
- Identity theft occurs when someone steals your name and other personal information for fraudulent purposes
- A successful defense depends on having good policies and their diligent implementation