

Identity theft prevention: A serious challenge to high-tech world cyber security

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Abstract:

In today's modern world life is become pointless without connecting to the information superhighway. Communication in the form of electronic process is under threat to loss of personal identity. This type of identity theft affects financially as well as mentally. To prevent such type of threat proper education as well as awareness in this field is necessary. A global venture is today's demand to resist from cyber identity theft.

Key Words: Identity theft, Information theft, Cyber security, Cyber-crime

Introduction:

Now a day's life has become meaningless without linking to the global super highway i.e. the world of internet. Now a day's world has transformed to global village. Any information related to any field is available to us in any time at any place of the world. No doubt this type of information access reaches us a new advanced working world. But there is always a shade under the lamp. Likewise in case of open access of information there was a shade that means chances to be a victim of information theft. Information in which someone's identity is attached is called cyber-identity. This type of identity is used frequently in the Cyber world. As we all know, recently on 12th may 2017 a worldwide organized cyber-attack known as Wanna Cry ransomware attack took place in which more than 2,30,000 computers in over 150 countries infected. A bunch of Indian companies were also affected. Identity theft in such cases creates a big threat to someone's entire existence.

Significance of Cyber Identity:

A huge number of people use the Internet in their everyday lives, from buying a pin to a helicopter everything they desire. Not only buying but anything they want. They exchange their personal secure information such as credit card data, internet banking data, mobile banking data, and any type of their personal identity related data, frequently. Personal data such as banking details and passwords related to social networking information are traveling through wires, and also through the air, from one computer to another. From any time any place to any time zone in the world.

Cyber Identity theft! What is this?

Any personal information such as credit card number to banking details, social networking passwords etc. that passes through this superhighway is not secure entirely. Unfortunately cyber criminals are there and they are trying constantly to steal such type of information for their benefit. Once they became successful in their mission ones all personal information comes to their hand and they can use it for their profit in any way.

Various types of Cyber Identity theft:

There are various types of identity theft from financial identity related documents such as bank balance, passwords to personal life related information such as healthcare, personal identity number, reputation.

Different techniques to steal Cyber Identity:

As the technology develops cybercriminals are engage to develop different kinds of sophisticated techniques to theft. The main techniques involves online as well as offline methods and some other types of methods to steal identity. Some of the most common types are:

Malware: It is a vast term used to describe different types of malicious software. With the help of this type of program criminals can access someone's personal computers.

Phishing: It is one of the most common types of cybercrime. In which criminals send email links look like as banks original website. Asks for one's password etc. and redirects to their fake website and stole peoples online banking identity.

Spyware: It is software developed by cybercriminals which can take control of someone's entire computer system and steal all the personal information.

Trojan horse: A type of malicious program which allows criminals to access someone's computer from any corner of the world. It is like the Trojan horse in Greek mythology.

Social networking: From social networking sites, criminals may get someone's various personal data.

Skimming: In this case, information of a credit card or debit card is recorded and transferred to a duplicate card without the knowledge of the original cardholder.

The above techniques are of the most common type; criminals also can steal information from homes personally or via phone call or simply via short message service (SMS).

Affects of Cyber Identity theft:

The affects of identity theft is devastating. This involves someone's financial loss to reputation loss. In short, it can destroy someone financially, mentally and physically.

Prevention measures:

Although a full proof plan for this type of identity theft is not known, but some major prevention measures are there, such as,

Use of Internet Security Software: Use of good quality internet security software from a reputed security firm is good practice. It can be able to solve many problems regarding this type of threat.

Use of strong passwords: Using alphanumeric characters with special words is always a better choice to avoid such type of threat.

Safe surfing on public internet cafes: In public computers, use of incognito mode for safe surfing all the time is the best idea.

Keeping documents safe: Personal documents must be kept with encryption in computers is a healthy practice. So the criminals are not easily get personal information.

Delete net banking history: It is always better to delete personal banking history after using computers.

Not to share personal information: One may not share their personal information in public media, social network. This can be harmful.

Use of common sense: Use of common sense during net surfing or doing financial work is always a great deal.

Awareness: Above all awareness is necessary. Without proper knowledge no one is able to prevent such type of threat. If victimized one must report to their nearest cybercrime police station for such cases.

Conclusion:

Internet is essential for now a day's life. Without this superhighway today's life has become worthless. So we must use it wisely. As the cybercriminals may steal information from any corner of the earth, a common worldwide awareness plan is necessary to prevent such type of identity theft. Worldwide common law implement is very necessary for this threat. Through proper knowledge and education we must protect this type of identity theft.

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