



# Cyber crime

Lesson code: KSXX-UQUB-BQ2N-X

UPPER INTERMEDIATE +

## 1 Internet crime

Match the following words to their correct definitions:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. hacker         | a. a computer program which can make copies of itself and is intended to harm a computer or computer system                          |
| 2. virus          | b. a person who gets into someone else's computer system without permission in order to find out information or do something illegal |
| 3. spam           | c. a small factory where workers are paid very little and work many hours in very bad conditions                                     |
| 4. extortion      | d. an illegal plan to make money   |
| 5. scam           | e. not requested   |
| 6. sweatshop      | f. obtaining money by deceiving people   |
| 7. con (somebody) | g. obtaining something, e.g. money, by threatening someone or using force  |
| 8. fraud          | h. to trick someone in order to make them give you their money or possessions  |
| 9. unsolicited    | i. unwanted email, especially advertisements, that you have not requested  |

Complete the following sentences with words from above:

1. I receive all kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ in my inbox everyday.
2. The criminal came up with a very clever \_\_\_\_\_ to steal money from people.
3. People who work in a \_\_\_\_\_ are usually under a lot of stress.
4. My computer isn't working. It has been infected with a \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ managed to get past the company's security firewall and steal important financial data.
6. I receive \_\_\_\_\_ emails almost everyday. I usually delete them immediately.
7. The criminals forced Mr Smith to pay them a large sum of money. He was the victim of \_\_\_\_\_ .
8. Someone stole my credit card details and used them to pay for things on the Internet. I was the victim of credit card \_\_\_\_\_ .
9. The criminal managed to \_\_\_\_\_ Frank out of \$100 by pretending to work for a charity organisation.

**In pairs, discuss: Have you been or do you know someone who has been the victim of a scam? What sort of spam do you receive in your email inbox?**



## 2 Find the information

Read the article below about computer crime in the UK in 2008, and find the following information:

1. The current number of computers in the UK infected with viruses:
2. The number of computers sending out spam emails every month in 2007:
3. The number of computers sending out spam emails every month in 2006:
4. The number of computers sending out spam emails every month in 2005:
5. The current estimated number of infected computers on the Internet:



# Cyber crime stays one step ahead

**What started as the activity of geeky hackers has become a multibillion-pound, international criminal industry.** *Adapted from The Independent, 22 March 2008*

- 1 Computer crime is not only exploding in volume but is mutating faster than it can be contained. Some 2.5 million new types of malicious programme have been launched in the past two months alone - more than in the entire last 15 years, according to the latest data from the security firm Trend Micro. The UK now has around 1.25 million "infected" computers. And the average number of PCs across the world sending out spam emails every month shot up to 10 million last year, more than double the 4.2 million in 2006, which was double the 2.1 million in 2005.
- 2 Cyber crime has become a multi-billion-pound, international criminal industry including unsolicited email "phishing" campaigns to con people out of financial details and passwords.
- 3 In the age-old contest of good guys against bad guys, each side inspires the other to ever greater levels of sophistication. And as viruses evolve, taking root on everything from digital cameras to USB memory sticks, simply securing a corporate infrastructure may no longer be enough.
- 4 A key tool for the cyber-criminal is the botnet - a large number of computers that are recruited by a virus and can then be controlled from one place, often without their owner's knowledge. Botnets can include tens of thousands of individual PCs, and have a lot of different types of uses, including mass spamming, propagating yet more viruses, and crashing websites by bombarding them with visitors.
- 5 The current estimate is that there are 175 million infected computers live on the internet today. And cyber crime is worth billions of dollars. But scams are so diverse, and the techniques are evolving so quickly, that it is almost impossible to estimate the true scale of the problem.
- 6 In value terms, the biggest scam at the moment is "click fraud", where certain websites that are being paid by advertisers on a per-click basis use botnets to bombard the advertiser's site with apparent interest. Second is good, old-fashioned, fraud using credit-card details, online accounts or electronic transfers based on information stolen either from individuals' computers or from insecure company databases. Third is extortion - often against gambling sites just before major sporting events - where botnets are used to prove the site can be knocked down unless payment is received.
- 7 The criminals' techniques are continually developing. This month, for example, saw the first botnet involving both humans and machines. To bypass security measures in signing up free email accounts, a criminal group set up a high-tech sweatshop in India to process the part of the application that cannot be done automatically.



### 3 Checking understanding

Answer the following questions according to the text:

1. Why is it not enough to secure a computer network in order to protect it from viruses?
2. How do cyber criminals send out spam emails, viruses and crash websites?
3. Which of the following words from the article relate to Internet scams, and which relate to crime in general? *click-fraud, phishing, extortion, fraud, spamming*
4. How are botnets used to crash websites?
5. In what way can click-fraud be used to cheat an online advertiser?
6. How can criminals set up free email accounts without being prevented by security measures?

### 4 Phrases in the text

Match the words in the first two columns to form collocations from the text:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1. secure    | a. a malicious programme (= to introduce a programme which is intended to cause damage)                          |
| 2. launch    | b. a network (= to make a network safe from viruses, hackers, etc.)  |
| 3. propagate | c. a virus (= to produce and spread copies of a virus)   |
| 4. bombard   | d. a website (= to attack a website with continuous hits until it stops working)                                 |
| 5. bypass    | e. a website (= to stop a website from working)  |
| 6. crash     | f. security measures (= to avoid security measures by going around them, for example in a clever or illegal way) |

### 5 Grammar Review - Passive voice, mixed tenses

Look at these sentences from the text:

The criminals' techniques are continually developing.

Cyber crime has become a multi-billion-pound, international criminal industry.

2.5 million new types of malicious programme have been launched in the past two months.

...where certain websites that are being paid by advertisers ...

1. Put **active** or **passive** next to each sentence.
2. Explain the difference in use between the passive and active.
3. Match each sentence to the following tenses: **present continuous, present perfect simple**
4. Explain the differences in uses between the tenses used in the examples.



## 6 Grammar practice

Now complete the sentences below by putting the verbs in brackets in their correct form. Decide if the meaning is active or passive.

1. The criminal who \_\_\_\_\_ (steal) personal details of thousands of Internet users \_\_\_\_\_ (catch/finally) yesterday .
2. Yesterday, Paul \_\_\_\_\_ (download) a malicious programme and his computer \_\_\_\_\_ (infect) with a virus.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (somebody/ever/hack) into your computer?
4. What \_\_\_\_\_ (do) at the moment to stop cyber criminals from stealing money?
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ (use) a pay phone to call her this morning because my mobile phone \_\_\_\_\_ (steal).
6. We \_\_\_\_\_ (treat) very well during our stay at the hotel last week.
7. While I was growing up, I \_\_\_\_\_ (encourage) to become a doctor.
8. Sally doesn't like \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) what to do.
9. Where \_\_\_\_\_ (you/celebrate) New Year's Eve this year?
10. The construction of the new roundabout \_\_\_\_\_ (not/complete) until May next year.
11. Taki's flat \_\_\_\_\_ (burgle) last month. His television and laptop \_\_\_\_\_ (steal).
12. Thousands of people \_\_\_\_\_ (hurt) when the earthquake \_\_\_\_\_ (strike) last year.

## 7 Talking point

What precautions can you take to avoid becoming a victim of Internet crime?



**1 Internet crime**

1. b      2. a      3. i      4. g      5. d      6. c      7. h      8. f      9. e

*Missing words:*

1. spam                      2. scam                      3. sweatshop                      4. virus  
 5. hacker                      6. unsolicited                      7. extortion                      8. fraud  
 9. con

**2 Find the information**

1. 1.25 million      2. 10 million      3. 4.2 million      4. 2.1 million      5. 175 million

**3 Checking understanding**

1. because computer viruses can be carried by hardware such as USB memory sticks and digital cameras.
2. They use botnets to bombard websites with visitors.
3. Internet scams: click-fraud, phishing, spamming; Crime in general: fraud, extortion
4. by bombarding them with visitors
5. It can be used to bombard the advertiser's website with clicks (forcing the advertiser to pay for irrelevant clicks).
6. by setting up sweatshops to do the manual part of the application

**4 Phrases in the text**

1. b                      2. a                      3. c                      4. d                      5. f                      6. e

**5 Grammar Review - Passive voice, mixed tenses**

1. ACTIVE: The criminals' techniques are continually developing; Cyber crime has become a multi-billion-pound, international criminal, industry  
 PASSIVE: 2.5 million new types of malicious programme have been launched in the past two months; ... where websites that are being paid by advertisers
2. The passive is used when the cause of the action is unknown or unimportant.
3. PRESENT CONTINUOUS: The criminals' techniques are continually developing; ... where websites that are being paid by advertisers  
 PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE 2.5 million new types of malicious programme have been launched in the past two months; Cyber crime has become a multi-billion-pound, international criminal, industry.
4. The present continuous is used to talk about an action or trend happening now or around the present time  
 The present perfect simple is used to talk about completed, recent actions or completed actions or trends that started in the past and continued to the present.



**6 Grammar practice**

1. stole; was finally caught
2. downloaded; was infected
3. Has somebody ever hacked
4. is being done
5. used; had been stolen
6. were treated
7. was encouraged
8. being told
9. are you celebrating/are you going to celebrate
10. won't be completed
11. was burgled; were stolen
12. were hurt; struck

