



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

January

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Stop Trafficking! Newsletter www.stopenslavement.org/index.html

Kids & the Internet: Hyperlinks into Human Trafficking

‘Spear Phishing’

The hacker knew every move his victim made. He controlled her computer webcam and microphone. He could see her in her bedroom, hear her conversations, knew every keystroke she made online. Then he threatened to expose her secrets unless she bowed to his demands.

It may sound like the plot for a scary teen movie, but it actually happened. And there wasn't just one victim; there were more than 200 — dozens of them adolescent girls.

Unlike many computer intrusions, where a hacker uses malicious software to steal identities or financial information, this case was primarily about spying and extortion — more aptly termed ‘sextortion.’ The hacker, a 31-year-old CA man used malicious code to infect and control the computers of his victims. Then he searched for explicit pictures from their computers, downloaded them, and used these images to extort more pictures and videos from them. After the hacker infected one computer, he used a popular social networking site—and a technique called ‘spear phishing’—to spread the virus.

“What’s frightening about this case was how easily the victims’ computers were compromised,” said a Los Angeles FBI agent. *“It was a social engineering attack, where victims had no idea what happened until it was too late. And this guy was no computer genius. Anybody could do what he did just by watching an online video and following directions.”*

In several instances, the hacker posed online as a young woman’s friend or sister and sent messages with attachments asking if the victim wanted to see a scary video. Because the messages appeared to be from a trusted source, the victims usually didn’t think twice about opening the attachment. When they did, the virus secretly installed itself and the hacker had total control over their computers — including all files and folders, webcams, and microphones.

Using similar ‘spear phishing’ methods the hacker spread the virus through the social network like wildfire. In all, there were 230 victims and more than 100 computers impacted.

(Excerpted: <http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/story-index/crimes-against-children>)

‘FBI-SOS’

This cyber safety program is available through an up-to-date website, featuring 3rd-8th grade ‘islands’ that highlight various aspects of cyber security through age-appropriate games, videos, and other interactive features.

FBI-SOS provides virtually everything needed for teachers to teach good cyber citizenship:

- A free, ready-made curriculum that meets state and federal Internet safety mandates;
- Age-appropriate content for each of the six grade levels;
- A printable teacher’s guide that explains how teachers can sign up their classes and use the site; and
- Detailed rules and instructions for students.

People of all ages can explore the website, play the games, watch the videos, and learn about cyber safety. However, the exam can only be taken by 3rd- to 8th-grade students, whose classes have been registered by their teachers.

Note: the FBI does not collect student names, ages, or other identifying information through the website. Students are identified only by number when taking the exams. Their teachers alone know which number matches which student. Teachers need only provide their name, school, and e-mail address when signing up. The e-mail address verifies the teacher’s identity for registration purposes.

“FBI-SOS is a fun, free, and effective way to teach kids how to use the Internet safely and responsibly. We encourage teachers to check out the site and sign up their classes during the school year.”

Scott McMillion, Head of the FBI-SOS Unit
FBI’s Criminal Investigative Division

Visit the site at: <https://sos.fbi.gov>



‘Parents’ Guide to Internet Safety’

Go to: <http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/parent-guide>

Resources for Child Safety Online:

- <http://www.netsmartz.org/InternetSafety>
- <http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents>
- <http://www.netsmartz.org/RealLifeStories/>
- <http://www.netsmartz.org/ChildrenAsVictims>

