Title of Session: C3: Hoaxes, Viruses and Spamming
Moderator: Davina Pruitt-Mentle
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Room: Cyber3 Group

BJB2: Davina, I know you have a lot to share, so perhaps we can get started with introductions, please....

BJB2: and we'll get any late arrivals caught up

DavinaP: Virginia and Dave please intro yourself and explain your interest in C3 topics

VirginiaR: 8th language arts

BJB2: I'm a communications teacher in Pennsylvania and on Tapped In helpdesk

BJB2: where are you located, Virginia?

VirginiaR: the state of Virginia

DavinaP: I am a faculty member and Director for Ed Tech Policy, research and Outreach at the University of MD and director of the C3 Institute

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm one of the HelpDesk volunteers and I lead a discussion on math education and technology. I'm NOT in Virginia, but rather in New Jersey

DavinaP: Last month we spoke about hoaxes—this time I wanted to discuss about other "online tactics" such as viruses, spamming spoofing phishing and pharming and the list goes on--ID theft as well

DavinaP: I am sure we will not cover all but at least we can get a handle on a few

DavinaP: First let's discuss spamming, bombing and spoofing—can anyone tell me the difference between the 2? Every heard of them? and how do you think they play out in the K-12 setting?

BJB2: not familiar with bombing

VirginiaR: me either

DavinaP: what about the others?

DavinaP: in your words what is spamming/

VirginiaR: its junk mail online

BJB2: sending unsolicited emails

BJB2 . o O (numerous times)

DavinaP: Wikipedia defines spamming http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spamming take a peek

BJB2 peeks

DavidWe: Something I looked up on Wikipedia recently said it had been LOCKED as there had been vandalism. I was a bit surprised, but I'm sure it can happen

DavinaP: David please explain?

DavidWe: When I did a Google search and found a link to a Wikipedia page...

DavidWe: The page that came up when I clicked on the link had a little "lock"....

DavidWe: Can you open a new window in your browser, Virginia?

DavidWe: Here's the page (I think) I found with the lock on it:

DavidWe: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I

DavinaP: once in --type in spamming

BJB2: I didn't realize there were so many kinds of spamming

DavinaP: was everyone able to get to the links--I ask since we will be going to several otherwise I might need to try something else

DavidWe got them

BJB2: I go the links

VirginiaR: The links don't work for me. I have to move back and forth between windows.

DavinaP: Virginia--were you able to visit the site that gave an overview of spamming? then we will compare to the other "types" bombing and spoofing

VirginiaR: yes. I am at the spam (electronic) page

DavinaP: now folks try http://www.cert.org/tech_tips/email_bombing_spamming.html#I to see the def of bombing

JeffC: I'm talking with a woman from Nigeria right now on YIM who claims to be from http://www.efccnigeria.org/index.php

JeffC: She says she wants me to help catch Nigerian scam artists.

DavidWe: Good luck, Jeff

DavinaP: as our first site mentioned spamming can be defined as :is the abuse of electronic messaging systems to send unsolicited, undesired bulk messages

DavinaP: Email bombing is characterized by abusers repeatedly sending an email message to a particular address at a specific victim site. In many instances, the messages will be large and constructed from meaningless data in an effort to consume additional system and network resources. Multiple accounts at the target site may be abused, increasing the denial of service impact.

DavinaP: How would spamming and bombing play out in the K-12 setting?

JeffC: kids trying to DOS their own school district?

VirginiaR: besides messing up someone's computer, what do the "bombers" get for their trouble?

JeffC: personal satisfaction?

VirginiaR: please

VirginiaR: do these people really have nothing better to do?

JeffC: I'm not being entirely flippant here... lots of kids love screwing around with people.

VirginiaR: is it usually kids

KellieGst6: If kids can pull something over on their teachers, they'll do it.

KellieGst6: I know that I get a lot of spam mail from textbook sites, but I've never encountered bombers.

DavinaP: why do kids cyberbully? they don't think about what they are doing--same with spam and bombing...other times they might send a message to their entire school for example--not realizing it can have the same impact--even if well intended

BJB2: I assume that a bomb can slow down a system?

DavinaP: YES!!

KellieGst6: I think kids feel that they can't be punished if they do this over the Internet as long as it isn't threatening or vulgar.

DavinaP: Email spamming is a variant of bombing; it refers to sending email to hundreds or thousands of users (or to lists that expand to that many users). Email spamming can be made worse if recipients reply to the email, causing all the original addressees to receive the reply. It may also occur innocently, as a result of sending a message to mailing lists and not realizing that the list explodes to thousands of users, or as a result of a responder message (such as vacation(1)) that is setup incorrectly. how many have had someone do this?

BJB2 raises her hand

KellieGst6: I haven't experienced this, but I rarely respond to sites I'm not familiar with.

BJB2: is it our responsibility as educators to warn our students about reading these kinds of messages, Davina?

VirginiaR: I don't even open email if I don't recognize the sender

KellieGst6: Is bombing similar or the same as a virus?

BJB2 . o O (one of the C's ...cybersafety?)

DavinaP: what does the group think regarding BJ's question

BJB2: security?

DavidWe: Ethical use of technology is something to model for students

DavinaP: I feel we need to model correct behavior and also pass along best practices as well as be "up" on the latest vocab and "tactics" in order to hold a conversation when it comes up as a teaching moment

KellieGst6: I think we need to teach our students how to be safe on the Internet. There are thousands of hackers who love to mess with people's computers.

DavinaP: any takers on spoofing yet?

DavidWe . o O (3 for 3)

BJB2: spoofing is sending emails that appear to be from a legit source

BJB2 . o O (or known source)

DavinaP: Email spoofing may occur in different forms, but all have a similar result: a user receives email that appears to have originated from one source when it actually was sent from another source. good--Email spoofing is often an attempt to trick the user into making a damaging statement or releasing sensitive information (such as passwords).

DavinaP: Examples of spoofed email that could affect the security of your site include:

DavinaP: email claiming to be from a system administrator requesting users to change their passwords to a specified string and threatening to suspend their account if they do not do this

DavinaP: email claiming to be from a person in authority requesting users to send them a copy of a password file or other sensitive information

KellieGst6: This is why I never give private information over the Internet

DavinaP: good

DavinaP: One of the problems with spamming and spoofing is that they may contain e-mail-laden viruses

BJB2: do you have to open an attachment to get a virus? Or will just opening an email do that?

DavinaP: an excellent site to learn about the spoofing and spamming + viruses is http://www.windowsecurity.com/articles/Email-Spoofing.html I apologize to those not able to access the site but will add to the resource list

BJB2: the url will be in your transcript

DavinaP: for those who can take a quick peek

DavinaP: E-mail spoofing is the forgery of an e-mail header so that the message appears to have originated from someone or somewhere other than the actual source. Distributors of spam often use spoofing in an attempt to get recipients to open, and possibly even respond to, their solicitations. Spoofing can be used legitimately. Classic examples of senders who might prefer to disguise the source of the e-mail include a sender reporting mistreatment by a spouse to a welfare agency or a "whistle-blower" who fears retaliation. However, spoofing anyone other than yourself is illegal in some jurisdictions.

DavinaP: E-mail spoofing is possible because Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP), the main protocol used in sending e-mail, does not include an authentication mechanism.

Although an SMTP service extension (specified in IETF RFC 2554) allows an SMTP client to negotiate a security level with a mail server, this precaution is not often taken. If the precaution is not taken, anyone with the requisite knowledge can connect to the server and use it to send messages. To send spoofed e-mail, senders insert commands in headers that will alter message information. It is possible to send a message that appears to be from anyone, anywhere, saying whatever the sender wants it to say. Thus, someone could send spoofed e-mail that appears to be from you with a message that you didn't write.

DavinaP: Although most spoofed e-mail falls into the "nuisance" category and requires little action other than deletion, the more malicious varieties can cause serious problems and security risks. For example, spoofed e-mail may purport to be from someone in a position of authority, asking for sensitive data, such as passwords, credit card numbers, or other personal information -- any of which can be used for a variety of criminal purposes. The Bank of America, eBay, and Wells Fargo are among the companies recently spoofed in mass spam mailings. One type of e-mail spoofing, self-sending spam, involves messages that appear to be both to and from the recipient.

DavinaP: So any one know what to do to help combat spamming, bombing and spoofing?

BJB2: set your email filter?

BJB2: make sure your virus protection is current

SusanaNC: I'm a bit late but I want to know about hoaxes and how to discover them

DavinaP: Hi Susan we are discussing spamming, spoofing and bombing but I can send you the transcript on hoaxes that we did last month if you want with the site email me at dpruitt@umd.edu

BJB2 . o O (pray a lot?)

DavidWe . o O (while facing east?)

DavinaP: Department of Energy does a good overview of E-Mail Spamming countermeasures http://ciac.llnl.gov/ciac/bulletins/i-005c.shtml

SusanaNC: Thanks

DavinaP: ACADEMIC COMPUTING and COMMUNICATIONS CENTER offers some slamming spam tech tips (both how to find the spam senders and more importantly how to REDUCE spam-see Tricks to Minimize Email Spam) http://www.uic.edu/depts/accc/newsletter/adn29/spam.html

SusanaNC: interesting

DavinaP: Learn more about how to rid yourself of these annoying emails by walking through the tutorial v uses the eBAy spam I am sure most of you have seen or received at one time or another

BJB2 nods

SusanaNC: nods too

DavinaP: helps if I give the link http://pages.ebay.com/education/spooftutorial/

BJB2 . o O (there are two such emails in my spam box as we speak)

DavinaP: one of the tactics is to explore the headers which give additional insight--a great problem solving strategy or exercise for kids to try as well--and also shows how folks can be tracked down

DavinaP: Any other questions related to spamming/spoofing and bombing? and how this plays out in the k-12 setting?

SusanaNC: Can you block the sender in any way?

DavinaP: if you know who it is coming from but if they "say they are someone else" not really unless you just stop doing email

DavinaP: the FTC has a great interactive Slam Spam activity online at http://onguardonline.gov/index.html

DavinaP: great to share with kids as well

BJB2: nice. Thanks, Davina

DavinaP: Next month we will cover....

DavinaP: spyware, malware, trojans, and worms

BJB2 . o O (November 6)

BJB2 . o O (just in time for Thanksgiving dinner   )

DavidWe: Thanks, Davina

DavidWe elbows BJ

BJB2: Thanks for leading the discussion, Davina

SusanaNC: Thanks Davina

VirginiaR: thanks

DavinaP: Keep in mind October is Cybersecurity awareness month and there are tons of activities to share and participate in

DavidWe smiles

DavinaP: try the interactive calendar of activities located at http://www.edtechoutreach.umd.edu/C3Institute/c3awareness.html scroll down to October

DavinaP: enjoy!!

SusanaNC: I'll be there, thanks

DavinaP: Good night all

BJB2 waves goodnight.

DavidWe: Good night