



7 Steps to Hacking - How Safe is your Data?
23rd April 2021
Steve McLaughlin



Any Questions?



" IT HAPPENS TO THE BEST OF US "



The Insurance
Institute of Leeds
Chartered Insurance Institute

7 Steps to Hacking - How Safe is your Data?

23rd April 2021

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Learning Objectives

You will:

- Understand the steps that hackers use to infiltrate companies and employees to steal their data
- Understand how hackers identify a target company or employee
- Understand why we all have a responsibility to keep our data secure.
- Understand how targeted electronic equipment can be used to infiltrate companies or employees.
- Understand simple defences to protect yourself.

Cyber Headlines

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Password guru Bill Blur regrets past password advice in interview with Wall Street Journal

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Estee Lauder 440 Million Records Accessed

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North Korea and China pose a greater Cyber Attack threat than Russia

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Rampant Ransomware encrypts files, holding businesses hostage

Hackers could take over electricity grid through solar panel gear

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**Cost of Cybercrime
to the Global Economy?**

Cost of Cybercrime to the Global Economy?

\$190,000 a Second

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\$11.4 Million a Minute

Cost of Cybercrime to the Global Economy?

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\$684.9 Million an Hour

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\$16.4 Billion a Day

\$115.4 Billion a Week

\$500 Billion a Month

\$6 Trillion a Year

Source Cybersecurity Ventures



**What is an Ethical
Hacker?**

What is an Ethical Hacker?

An ethical hacker is a **computer and network expert**, employed to attack a system on behalf of its owners, seeking vulnerabilities a malicious hacker could exploit.

**What is the difference
between:**

**an amateur hacker
&
a professional hacker?**

Our Expertise

network
on behalf
es a



Source: Observer 29th October 1995



http://www.7safe.com/electronic_evidence/ACPD_guidelines_computer_evidence_v4_web.pdf

Certifications



the Observer 29 October 1995

RAF covertly taps mobile phones

'Special dispensation' by DTI threatens privacy

Peter Beaumont
Defence Correspondent

A SECRETIVE Royal Air Force unit dedicated to gathering and protecting electronic intelligence is monitoring calls on Britain's public mobile telephone networks — despite acknowledging the risk of 'accidentally' eavesdropping on private conversations.

The Observer has established that 591 Signals Unit, based at RAF Digby in Lincolnshire, has been monitoring mobile calls since at least the middle of this year, after the

forming 'defensive monitoring' of RAF radio frequencies and their own telephone and fax systems to spot people discussing classified material on open lines or frequencies.

Until last year the RAF was prevented from monitoring mobile calls under the 1990 Interception of Communications Act. Now, however, the unit has been given special permission by the Department of Trade and Industry to monitor mobile telephone traffic.

The new exception to the Act follows concern over the increased use of portable telephones by RAF personnel and

about telephone monitoring across the three armed services.

Labour MP Chris Mullin said: 'There is obvious scope for abuse. Like most people, I am very surprised that the RAF should be able to listen in to open public networks and I believe we should be told more about this.'

The issue is to be raised by Labour's Shadow Defence Secretary, David Clark, who is to ask which other mobile phone networks are being monitored by the armed forces.

A spokesman for the RAF conceded that the law had

Source: Observer 29th October 1995

Certifications





Good Practice Guide for Computer-Based Electronic Evidence

Official release version 4.0

[http://www.7safe.com/electronic_evidence/
ACPO_guidelines_computer_evidence_v4_web.pdf](http://www.7safe.com/electronic_evidence/ACPO_guidelines_computer_evidence_v4_web.pdf)

Who is at risk?

Who is at risk?

Chip and PIN terminal users

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Chip and PIN terminal users

Businesses with competitors

Who is at risk?

Chip and PIN terminal users

Businesses with competitors

Large organisations

Who is at risk?

Chip and PIN terminal users

Businesses with competitors

Large organisations

Anyone with a computer!

7 Steps to Hacking

Step 1
Information Discovery
Research the target

Step 3
Vulnerability Assessment
The information gathered from steps 1 & 2 helps the hacker decide on the best method of attack

Step 2
Target Scanning
Identify potential entry points
Physical access or virtual?
Determines a hacker's chosen method of attack

Virtual Access	Physical Access
----------------	-----------------

Step 4
Exploiting the weakness

Step 5
Privilege Escalation
Establish self as a trusted user
Gain administrative privileges
All computers, printers and devices are now exposed to the hacker
This is know as "owning the network"

Step 6
Retaining Access
Owning the network allows you to:
Open other routes/backdoors into the network
Complete the required task for the original hack

Step 7
Covering Tracks
Hide the evidence of being hacked
Retain anonymity, ranging in severity
Changing file metadata and permissions, Corrupting files, folders and Master Boot Records
Back out of the computer or network

Step 1 Information Discovery

Research the target

Step 1

Information Discovery

Research the target

Dumpster diving

Step 1 Information Discovery

Research the target

Dumpster diving

Social Engineering

Step 1 Information Discovery

Research the target

Dumpster diving

Social Engineering

Real World Gathering

Step 1 Information Discovery

Research the target

Dumpster diving

Social Engineering

Real World Gathering

Companies House

Step 1 Information Discovery

Research the target

Dumpster diving

Social Engineering

Real World Gathering

Companies House

Current clients

Step 1 Information Discovery

Research the target

Dumpster diving

Social Engineering

Real World Gathering

Companies House

Current clients

Company Website

Step 1 Information Discovery

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Current clients

Company Website

The Internet!

Step 1 Information Discovery

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Dumpster diving

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Real World Gathering

Companies House

Current clients

Company Website

The Internet!

Company Testimonials

Step 2

Target Scanning

Identify potential entry points

Physical access or virtual?

Determines a hacker's chosen method of attack

Virtual Access

Physical Access

Virtual Access

Virtual Access

Email servers

Virtual Access

Email servers

Standard router credentials

Virtual Access

Email servers

Standard router credentials

Insecure wireless networks

Virtual Access

Email servers

Standard router credentials

Insecure wireless networks

Remote web workplace

Virtual Access

Email servers

Standard router credentials

Insecure wireless networks

Remote web workplace

Outlook web access

Virtual Access

Email servers

Standard router credentials

Insecure wireless networks

Remote web workplace

Outlook web access

Targeted electronic equipment

Virtual Access

Email servers

Standard router credentials

Insecure wireless networks

Remote web workplace

Outlook web access

Targeted electronic equipment

Remote Desktop

Physical Access

Physical Access

Disgruntled employee or former employee

Physical Access

Disgruntled employee or former employee

Lax security and procedures

Physical Access

Disgruntled employee or former employee

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Third party contractors, e.g. agency staff

Physical Access

Disgruntled employee or former employee

Lax security and procedures

Third party contractors, e.g. agency staff

Targeted electronic equipment

Step 2 Target Scanning

Identify potential entry points

Physical access or virtual?

Determines a hacker's chosen method of attack

Virtual Access

Email servers
Standard router credentials
Insecure wireless networks
Remote web workplace
Outlook web access
Targeted electronic equipment
Remote Desktop

Physical Access

Disgruntled employee or former employee
Lax security and procedures
Third party contractors, e.g. agency staff
Targeted electronic equipment

Step 3

Vulnerability Assessment

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Selecting the path of least resistance

Step 4

Exploiting the weakness

Step 4

Exploiting the weakness

**Virtual access
example**

Step 4

Exploiting the weakness

**Virtual access
example**

The Trojan Email

Step 4

Exploiting the weakness

**Virtual access
example**

The Trojan Email

**Physical access
example**

Step 4

Exploiting the weakness

**Virtual access
example**

The Trojan Email

**Physical access
example**

The Trojan Keyboard

Step 5 Privilege Escalation

Establish self as a trusted user

Gain administrative privileges

All computers, printers and devices are
now exposed to the hacker

This is know as "owning the network"

Step 7 Covering Tracks

Hide the evidence of being hacked

Retain anonymity, ranging in severity
Changing file metadata and permissions,
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Records

Back out of the computer or network

Step 6 Retaining Access

Owning the network allows you to:

Open other routes/backdoors into the network

Complete the required task for the
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How much does it cost to become James Bond?

James Bond's Budget



How much does it cost to become James Bond?

James Bond's Budget



'Spy sunglasses
key-fob recording device
Nokia charger recording device
Keystroke logger
'Spy watch'
Bugged phone
Total

How much does it cost to become James Bond?

James Bond's Budget



'Spy sunglasses	£225
key-fob recording device	£175
Nokia charger recording device	£200
Keystroke logger	£35
'Spy watch'	£100
Bugged phone	£200
Total	£935

Wanacrypt Ransomware Example

Wanacrypt Ransomware Example

Q: what's wrong with my files?

A: Ooops, your important files are encrypted. It means you will not be able to access them anymore until they are decrypted.
If you follow our instructions, we guarantee that you can decrypt all your files quickly and safely!
Let's start decrypting!

Q: what do I do?

A: First, you need to pay service fees for the decryption.
Please send \$300 worth of bitcoin to this bitcoin address:
12t9YDPgwueZ9NyMgw519p7AA8isjr6SMw

Next, please find an application file named "@wanaDecryptor@.exe".
It is the decrypt software.
Run and follow the instructions! (You may need to disable your antivirus for a while.)

Q: How can I trust?

A: Don't worry about decryption.
We will decrypt your files surely because nobody will trust us if we cheat users.

* If you need our assistance, send a message by clicking <Contact us> on the decryptor window.

Smishing Example

Smishing Example

From: Steven McLaughlin <andrew.watts61@ntlworld.com>

Sent: 17 March 2021 08:56

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Available?

Hello [REDACTED]

I need you to handle a short but urgent task, Reply with your whatsapp number.

Thanks.

Sent from my Ipad

Genuine v Fake Bank Statement

Genuine v Fake Bank Statement



HSBC Advance

Contact tel 03457 404 404
see reverse for call times
Text phone 03457 125 563
used by deaf or speech impaired customers
www.hsbc.co.uk

Your Statement

Mr S P Denton
Denton Lodge
Sovereign Way
Twickenham
London
TW1 1DD



Account Summary	
Opening Balance	49.58
Payments In	3,645.71
Payments Out	2,746.63
Closing Balance	948.66
Overdraft Limit	1,250.00

International Bank Account Number
GB9778314022012345678
Branch Identifier Code
HBUKGB4160J

15 April to 14 May 2018

Account Name
Mr Steven Paul Denton & Mrs Karen Denton

Sortcode Account Number Sheet Number
40-20-20 12345678 67

Your HSBC Advance details

Date	Payment type and details	Paid out	Paid in	Balance
14 Apr 18	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD			49.58
16 Apr 18	DD TUNBRIDGE WELLS BC	197.24		
	VIS LIDL UK CROWBOROUGH		17.57	165.23 D
	CROWBOROUGH			
17 Apr 18	VIS SAINSBURY'S MKTS			
	TUNBRIDGEWELL	22.31		187.54 D
18 Apr 18	TFR 402020 12345671			
	INTERNET TRANSFER		1,194.00	1,006.46
23 Apr 18	VIS SAINSBURY'S MKTS			
	TUNBRIDGEWELL	34.65		971.81
24 Apr 18	VIS INTL 0043175441			
	ITUNES.COM BILL	14.99		956.82
25 Apr 18	DD ADMIRAL INSURANCE	135.47		
	DD CLOSE-HIGGS INSURA	70.20		
	VIS INTL 004864001			
	Prime InstantVideo	5.99		745.16
	amzn.co.uk pm		16.44	
26 Apr 18	CR TUNBRIDGE WELLS BC			
	DD SKY DIGITAL	42.99		
	DD SKY DIGITAL	31.75		
	VIS TRAYELJN@SAINSBURY			
	SOUTHAMPTON	300.58		386.28
30 Apr 18	DD BOUGHT BY MANY	69.09		
	TFR 402020 12345671			
	INTERNET TRANSFER		1,100.00	
	BP K DENTON		100.00	
	JOINT			
	BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD			1,517.19

105 Mount Pleasant Tunbridge Wells Kent TN1 1QP

Genuine v Fake Bank Statement

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	VIS INFL0048643031		745.16	
	Prime InstantVideo	5.99		
	amzn.co.uk/pm		16.44	
26 Apr 18	CR TUNBRIDGE WELLS BC			
	DD SKY DIGITAL	42.99		
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30 Apr 18	DD BOUGHT BY MANY	300.58		
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HSBC  UK

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Your Statement

Mr Fake Name
Fake Park Cottage
Fake Road
Fake Village
Fake Town
Fake County
(N1 1QP)



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	VIS LIDL UK CROWBOROUGH			

" IT HAPPENS TO THE BEST OF US "

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High Risk Alert

Your email address and password are being illegally published and sold online.

What have we found?

Your email address 160bod@gmail.com and the password you use to access it

Why do I need to know?

They are being sold together online by illegal black market communities. This puts you at high risk of becoming a victim of fraud.



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CreditExpert

from Experian®




Simple rules for a
first line of defence



**Simple rules for a
first line of defence**

Educate your employees about the risks



Simple rules for a first line of defence

Educate your employees about the risks
Install all security updates when released

Simple rules for a first line of defence

- Educate your employees about the risks
- Install all security updates when released
- Consider information you place on the web

Simple rules for a first line of defence

- Educate your employees about the risks
- Install all security updates when released
- Consider information you place on the web
- Ensure all internal firewalls are always on

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- Vet third-party contractors

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 - Get Cyber Crime Insurance
 - Lock unattended computers

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- Educate your employees about the risks
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- Ensure all internal firewalls are always on
 - Introduce clear desk policies
 - Vet third-party contractors
 - Get Cyber Crime Insurance
 - Lock unattended computers
 - Check user rights regularly
 - Avoid writing passwords down...

Password Policies



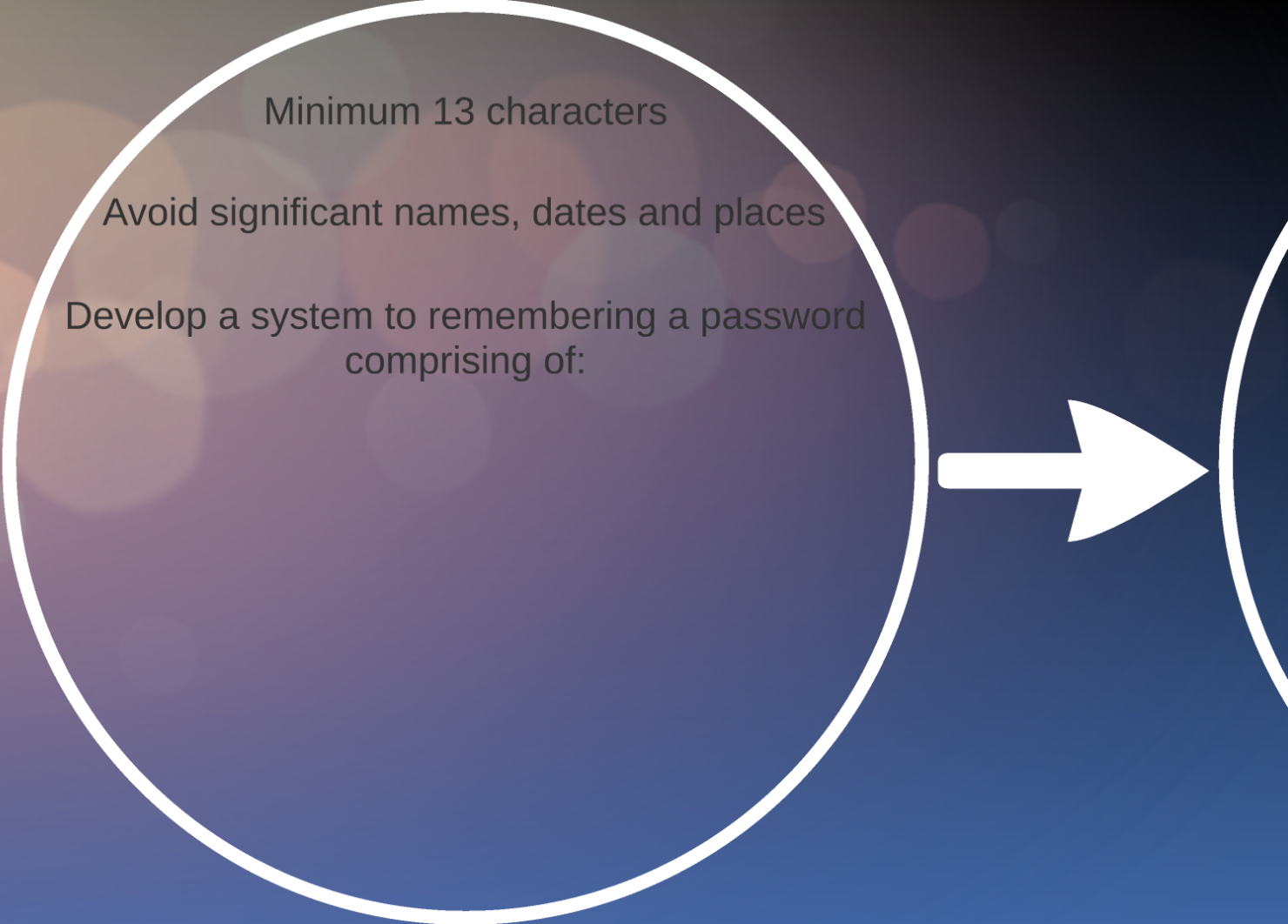
Minimum 13 characters





Minimum 13 characters

Avoid significant names, dates and places



Minimum 13 characters

Avoid significant names, dates and places

Develop a system to remembering a password
comprising of:

Minimum 13 characters

Avoid significant names, dates and places

Develop a system to remembering a password
comprising of:

circa four random and unconnected words



Minimum 13 characters

Avoid significant names, dates and places

Develop a system to remembering a password
comprising of:

circa four random and unconnected words

Include numbers



Minimum 13 characters

Avoid significant names, dates and places

Develop a system to remembering a password
comprising of:

circa four random and unconnected words

Include numbers

Include special characters such as



Minimum 13 characters

Avoid significant names, dates and places

Develop a system to remembering a password
comprising of:

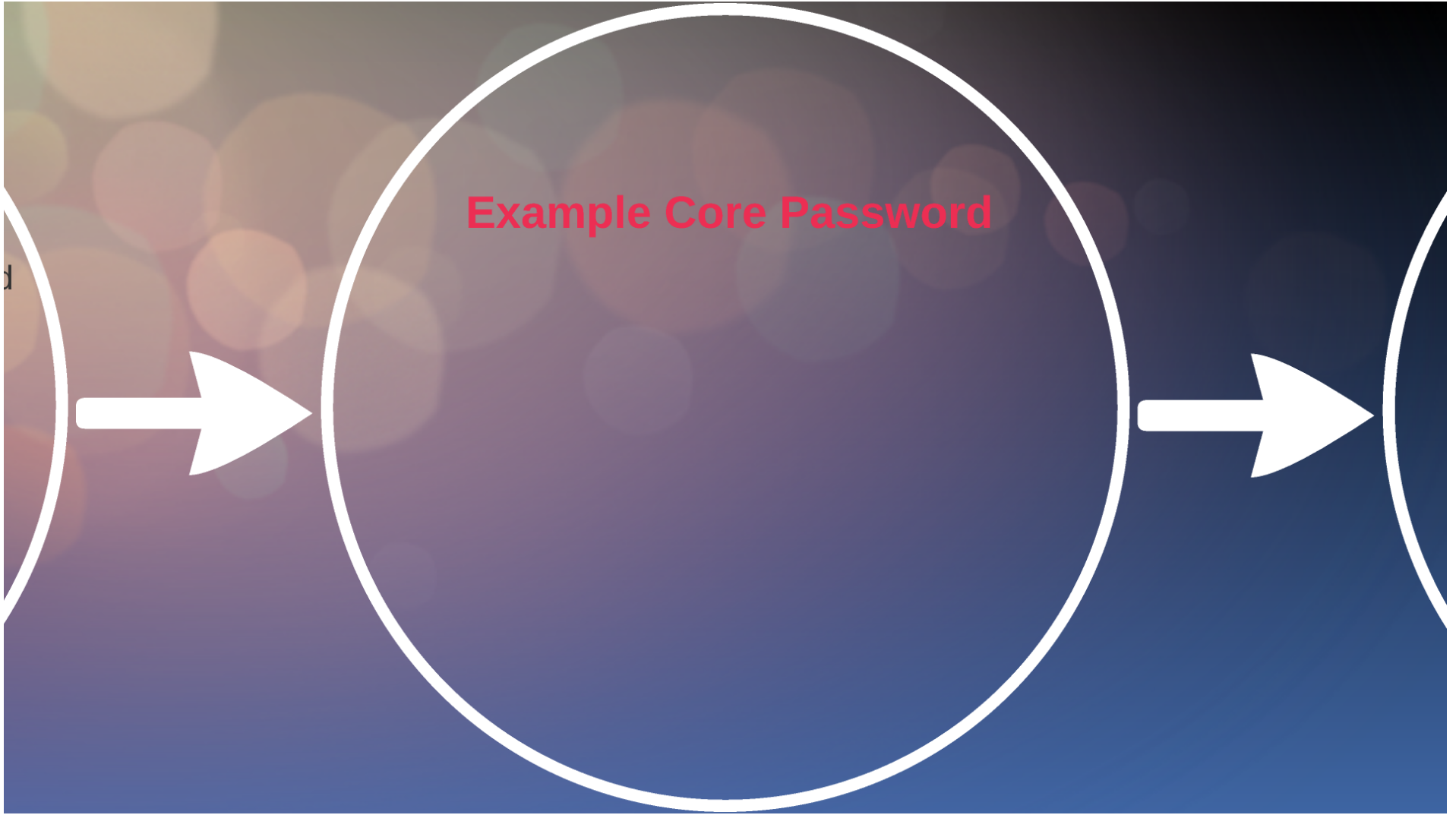
circa four random and unconnected words

Include numbers

Include special characters such as

* ! @ £ % - + =

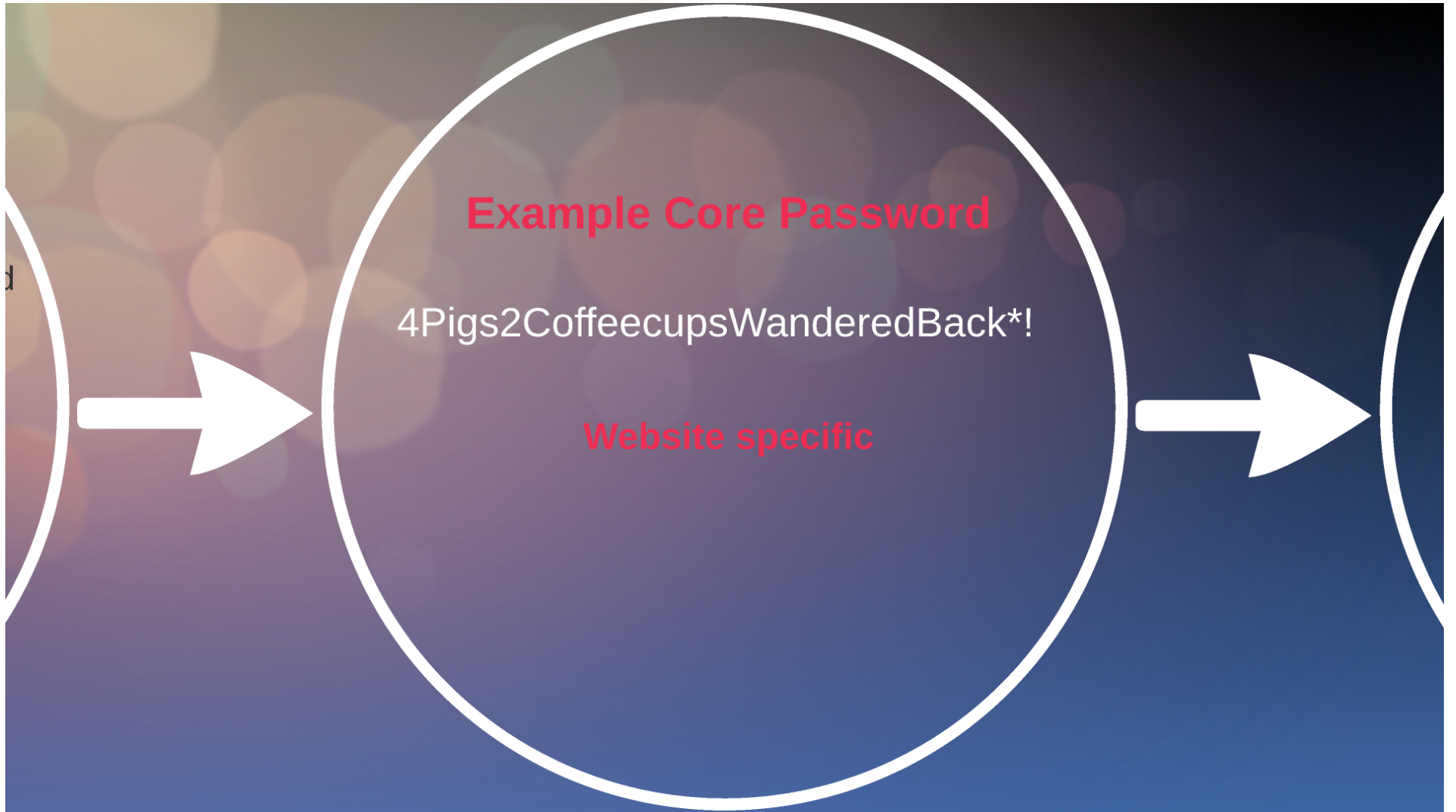






Example Core Password

4Pigs2CoffeecupsWanderedBack*!





Example Core Password

4Pigs2CoffeecupsWanderedBack*!

Website specific

Core password, plus 1st, 3rd and 5th
letters of the website address



<http://www.amazon.co.uk>



<http://www.amazon.co.uk>

4Pigs2CoffeecupsWanderedBack*!Aao



<http://www.amazon.co.uk>

4Pigs2CoffeecupsWanderedBack*!Aao

Core password



<http://www.amazon.co.uk>



4Pigs2CoffeecupsWanderedBack*!Aao



Core password

<http://www.amazon.co.uk>

4Pigs2CoffeecupsWanderedBack*!Aao



Core password

1st, 3rd and 5th
letters of website

The diagram features a large white circle on a dark blue background. Inside the circle, the URL <http://www.amazon.co.uk> is written at the top. Below it is the password `4Pigs2CoffeecupsWanderedBack*!Aao`. A large white arrow points from the left edge of the circle towards the password. A dark grey arrow points from the text 'Core password' below to the '4' in the password. A white arrow points from the text '1st, 3rd and 5th letters of website' below to the 'A', 'o', and 'o' in the password.

<http://www.amazon.co.uk>

4Pigs2CoffeecupsWanderedBack*!Aao

Core password

1st, 3rd and 5th
letters of website

Password security

Attackers use a variety of techniques to discover passwords, including using powerful tools freely available on the internet. The following advice makes password security easier for your users – improving your system security as a result.

How passwords are cracked...

Interception

Passwords can be intercepted as they are transmitted over a network.



Brute Force

Automated guessing of billions of passwords until the correct one is found.

Searching

IT infrastructure can be searched for electronically stored password information.



Manual Guessing

Personal information, such as name and date of birth can be used to guess common passwords.



Social Engineering

Attackers use social engineering techniques to trick people into revealing passwords.



Stealing Passwords

Insecurely stored passwords can be stolen – this includes handwritten passwords hidden close to a device.

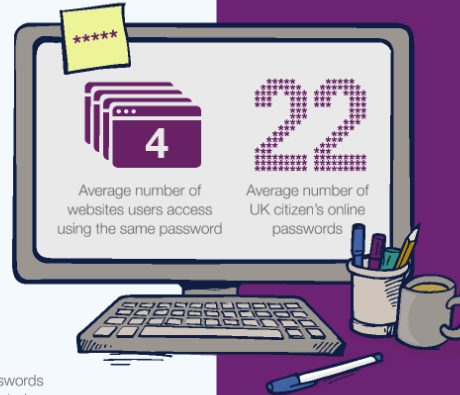
Shoulder Surfing

Observing someone typing their password.



Key Logging

An installed keylogger intercepts passwords as they are typed.



...and how to improve your system security

Help users cope with 'password overload'

- Only use passwords where they are really needed.
- Use technical solutions to reduce the burden on users.
- Allow users to securely record and store their passwords.
- Only ask users to change their passwords on indication of suspicion of compromise.
- Allow users to reset password easily, quickly and cheaply.

Help users generate appropriate passwords

- Put technical defences in place so that simpler passwords can be used.
- Steer users away from predictable passwords – and ban the most common.
- Encourage users to never re-use passwords between work and home.
- Train staff to help them avoid creating passwords that are easy to guess.
- Be aware of the limitations of password strength meters.



Blacklist the most common password choices



Monitor failed login attempts... train users to report suspicious activity



Prioritise administrator and remote user accounts



Don't store passwords in plain text format.

**** UPDATE

Change all default vendor supplied passwords before devices or software are deployed

Use account lockout, throttling or monitoring to help prevent brute force attacks



For more information go to www.ncsc.gov.uk @ncsc

Summary

The higher up the tree you are,
the safer you will become



Summary

The higher up the tree you are,
the safer you will become



To beat a hacker...
you need to think like one!

http://stevemacmedia.co.uk/pages/smm_cyber_security_video_link.html

Any Questions?

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