

Using NewsHour Extra Feature Stories

STORY

Cyber Crime and Spying Threaten National Security, 04/10/09

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june09/cybercrime_04-10.html

Estimated Time: One 45-minute class period with possible extension

[Student Worksheet](#) (reading comprehension and discussion questions without answers)

PROCEDURE

1. WARM UP

Use initiating questions to introduce the topic and find out how much your students know.

2. MAIN ACTIVITY

Have students read NewsHour Extra's feature story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions on the student handout.

3. DISCUSSION

Use discussion questions to encourage students to think about how the issues outlined in the story affect their lives and express and debate different opinions.

INITIATING QUESTIONS

1. **What is your definition of cyber crime?**

2. **Do you think cyber crime is a serious problem?**

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS – [Student Worksheet](#)

1. **Where does the FBI rank cyber crime?**

The FBI has now ranked cyber crime as the third-greatest threat to U.S. national security, after nuclear war and weapons of mass destruction.

2. **How much has the Department of Defense spent on guarding its networks from cyber attacks in the last six months?**

The Department of Defense said it has spent \$100 million in the past six months responding to cyber attacks.

3. **What did a recent report say about the American electricity grid?**

A recent report by the North American Electric Reliability Corp. revealed the electricity industry has not protected the nation's electricity infrastructure from a cyber attack, particularly from trained operatives in Russia or China.

4. **What did Canadian researchers find?**

Canadian researchers recently uncovered a vast Chinese online spying network that infiltrated offices of the Dalai Lama and various government agencies around the world.

There was no evidence the Chinese government was behind the spy network.

5. What has infected millions of computers around the world?

Recently, a mysterious computer worm infected millions of computers around the world via Web sites and e-mail. The Conficker worm is capable of taking control of infected computers to be used commanded by whomever created it.

6. How did one security analyst describe many hackers?

Don Jackson, whose job it is to hunt online criminals for SecureWorks, infiltrates hacker chat rooms that are often populated by young, male Russians who can make tens of thousands of dollars a month via online theft.

7. What are some of the most common cyber crimes?

Fake sales, credit card and Internet auction fraud are up 33 percent from last year, at a cost of \$264.6 million, according to the Internet Crime Complaint Center, which is a partnership between the FBI and the National White Collar Crime Center.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Have you ever been a victim of cyber crime? Are you worried that an online criminal will steal from you?

2. How should the government fight online criminals? Should they spend more money on fighting online crime at the expense of other crime?

3. Do you think online spying will become a bigger national security problem in the future? What should the U.S. do to protect itself?

4. What steps do you take to protect yourself from online crime?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.