HACKERS
— the good, the bad and in between

Hackers can be a serious problem online, but can also work hard preventing problems.

Contrary to popular belief, not all hackers are malicious and not all hacking activity is a crime. There are various levels in between good and bad hacking—it all depends on the intention behind the skills.

Hacking can also be used in a legal and ethical way to identify weaknesses and protect from cyber-attacks.

What are honeypots?

A honeypot is a tech-net used to ambush hackers. These are sacrificial websites, users, and setups built to draw cyberattacks, and gather information about hackers.

SPAM

Built to look like regular email addresses, spam honeypots are used to detect and catch spam bots—fake accounts created to send spam across the Internet—before they reach real accounts.

SPIDER

Web pages and links created to attract and trap web crawlers, which are bots built to browse the internet 24/7 and scout out weak websites for hackers to attack.

DATABASE

A decoy database looks like a regular database with vital information—created to attract hackers who are unaware that their every move is recorded from the second they enter the website.

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What's a hacker?

People who gain access to networks or computer systems to identify weaknesses in order to either fix vulnerabilities, or exploit them.

Hackers can wear different hats

Hackers are not always the bad guy—they can wear many hats.

FUN FACT

No matter how secure a system is, if it is connected to the internet it can be hacked.

BLACK HAT HACKERS

These are the bad guys who use their skills to break systems for their gain, or to get recognition.

GREY HAT HACKERS

These hackers are a mix of white and black hackers. They break systems without permission, and any vulnerabilities they find are reported and can be fixed for a fee.

WHITE HAT HACKERS

These hackers use their skills for good, by trying to break systems in order to identify vulnerabilities in systems. They are normally hired by organisations to carry out this task.

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