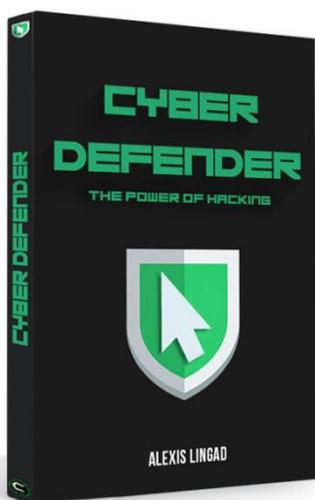


CYBER DEFENDER

THE POWER OF HACKING



ALEXIS LINGAD



CYBER DEFENDER

“THE POWER OF HACKING”

Alexis Lingad



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Alexis Lingad is a penetration tester and researcher, as well as the founder of Cryptors, Inc., a cybersecurity firm who raised the cybersecurity awareness around the world. He is currently a senior security consultant in iEi Securities, LLC, an information security firm in United States of America. He presents in some conferences and seminars on topics such as penetration testing, website hacking, hacker mindset and social engineering.

He is popularly known as the ethical hacker who hacked back the entertainment platform of the students, having a 20,000+ audiences, in Mapua Institute of Technology called Mapuan Files. He is also the team leader of the group who bagged the 2015 Hacker Games Champion trophy in one of the biggest IT security conference in the Philippines called What The Hack: IT Security Summit.

WARNING!

The search for the TRUTH is not for the faint-hearted!
This book may destroy your traditional beliefs..

REVIEW

"Alexis give a different perspective in a hacking story. It's not everyday that you read the thoughts of someone from the other side of the fence. A Filipino version of Kevin Mitnick's Ghost in the Wires and Kevin Poulsen's Kingpin.

I'll definitely discuss his digital tales in my College Network Security and IT Professional Code of Ethics classes from here on."

-Mars Cacacho
Founder of HackTheNorth.PH

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FOREWORD

The book is focused on a **hacker's mindset** that gives you a basic idea on **how to think like a hacker** and it will also inspire you to **become one**. It will also teach you that having a mentor will create a **big impact** on how you choose and decide in every step of your life.

This is just the beginning.
Happy Hacking!

-Meric Mara

CEO and CTO of 8layers Technologies, Director of Maralabs, The man behind the KahelOS (The First Linux Distro in the Philippines)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First of all, I would like to thank Jesus who gave me all of the things I have now. I am very grateful that he gave me a chance to spread the good news about cyber security and to make our cyber world a more secure place.

I would like to thank my parents and my little brother who supported me in my ethical hacking journey even if they find it a very different path.

I would like to thank my team in Cryptors, Inc., for supporting me in raising cyber security awareness around the world.

I would like to thank my mentors who guide me in chasing the path I want to pursue.

I would like to thank the cyber security community in the Philippines such as HackTheNorth.PH, Philippine Army, 8layer Technologies, Global Knowledge Philippines and Bitshield Security Consulting to name the few for supporting me in building a safer cyberspace in the Philippines.

I would like to thank Technological Institute of the Philippines and Mapua Institute of Technology for taking a big part of my hacking journey.

Lastly, I would like to thank my friends who joined me in my adventures. I wouldn't made this book without the memories you've given me for the past few years. This book is for you all to cherish the memories, especially the underground hacking organization we made called 'Mapua Cryptors'.

001

START THE REVOLUTION

“Spiderman has extraordinary strength and ability of the spiders as his power. The Flash can run very fast like a lightning. Hulk has an invincible strength of a huge green monster. Like these superheroes, hackers have powers too: a power that can fully control the new world we are living, the cyberspace.”



1.1 What is this Book?

Congratulations! You just found the holy grail of how to become a real hacker. This book is the only book on the planet that focuses on building a strong hacker's mindset for you to be able to *hack everything* under the sun. Yes, you've read it right, "HACK EVERYTHING". This book is what you are waiting for a long time ago. We are so glad that you didn't miss the chance to take your first step in discovering the TRUE HACKING.

Many of the people today are always asking these questions about hacking:

- "Where should I begin?"
- "How to start a career in hacking?"
- "I know how to use tools, but I don't feel like I am a hacker, what will I do?"
- "How to become a real hacker?"
- "How can I hack anything?"
- "What should I study to fully understand hacking?"
- "What are the secrets of hackers?"

- “How to think like a hacker?”

This book will give you all the answers to those questions. Don't worry if you don't know anything about technology because this book is created for everyone. If you are already a professional hacker then this book might be for you too. Why? Because many of our professional hackers these days are not really a true hacker. Many of them didn't think like a true hacker. They depend too much in hacking tools which is not a way of a real hacker. Fortunately, this is your chance to see if you are one of those real hackers or not.

This book will focus on developing your **Hacker Mindset**, because by solely using this, **YOU CAN HACK EVERYTHING**. How? Let this book explain to you the details of how to do that. Forget about hacking Facebook account or any other accounts! You will learn to hack all of those things and even bigger things by just reading and applying what is in this book.

This book will **train you to become** one of the finest **superhero** in the history. You will become a real hero, not like Superman, Batman, Wonderwoman, or any superhero you know in your childhood which is only fiction. You are reading this book for a reason and it is not an accident. You are destined to become a real cool hero of this society that can help many people.

This book will let you know the **misconceptions** that the traditional arena gives **about** the **hackers**. This is for you to know the truth about hackers. They say that the hackers are evil, geniuses, and only for geeks, but they don't know that there is a bigger revelation than that. A hacker can be mysterious, sometimes but we will reveal the secrets that most of them didn't want you to know.

This book will also tell you the **step by step** process of how real **hacking** occurs. This is for you to be on the right path because many of the professionals today want you to rely on the hacking tools and any *technical details* but not with the *thinking details*: the hacker's mindset which is a better computer and tool for hacking. Many of our hackers today were misled and end up being a script kiddie professionals. But no more worries, this book will help you hack the way out of that wrong path.

This book will also teach you how to **think exactly like** a true **hacker**. Knowing what's inside their mind can be a great weapon to counter them. Additionally, it can be also a great advantage for you to become a real hacker. This book will tell you the exact phrases that a hacker always thinks.

Lastly, this book will tell you all of the things you need to start your journey in ethical hacking right away. With the knowledge you will gain in this book, you can activate the 80% hacker in yourself. This book is very important, but this is just a major start to begin your journey as a **real hacker**.



1.2 Why Teach Hacking?

I founded Cryptors in April 2015 with a goal to raise cyber security awareness around the world. I built this startup because this world needs someone who will teach them how to protect themselves in cyberspace. I need them to think like a hacker who breaks into the computers for them to be ready 24/7 in the possible attacks they might encounter. But first of all, we need to teach them the ethical hacker's mindset which is the very important.

Imagine this: when I am speaking in front of many people, I can kill anyone in that room but I don't because I am ethical. I am trained not to do it and trained to act ethically even if I have the ability to do such lunatic and terrible things. And that's why training the student the ethical way of hacking is very important. However, some of the professionals today think that by just saying the phrases like, "Do this for educational purposes only", "Do this with permission" and something like

that, they expect that the students will just build the huge foundation of being ethical in hacking in just a snap of saying those things which is not true. It takes time and a lot of effort to train a student to think ethically in the certain field and that type of training is included in what we are teaching interactively in this book and in our seminars.

I know some of you have questions in the back of your mind like, "Wait a minute! Aren't you just arming people with digital weapons?" Well, that's true. I teach things that they can abuse and so are the **chemistry professors, military academy and martial arts instructors**. Just like these people, I am putting my whole trust to the students that they won't use this to harm anyone. The chemistry professors teach students to use those learnings in the benefit of the people, for they know it is the ethical way of becoming a chemist. Military academies train their students to become disciplined, helpful and ready to die for the sake of their country since they know it is the ethical way of becoming a soldier. The martial arts instructors train their students to use those techniques they acquired in defending themselves and by helping anyone in need because they know it is the ethical way of becoming a martial artist. Chemists, soldiers and martial artists can harm anyone using the acquired talent given to them by their teachers but they are trained to do what is ethical in their field.

It is the same story in hacking. Students who learn hacking can also harm anyone using this kind of power they acquired from the teachers. However, we can train the students to use this power in securing our cyberspace for we know that this is the ethical way of being a hacker. That's why I created this book, not just to teach them how to hack, but to teach them how to become ethical in this field.

By teaching them hacking, they will learn how the digital world

works. The student will learn how to defend themselves in cyberspace because depending too much on the ready-made software like anti-viruses or firewalls are not enough. To make this possible, they need to learn how bad hackers victimized people and become smarter than the bad hackers by developing the best countermeasures.

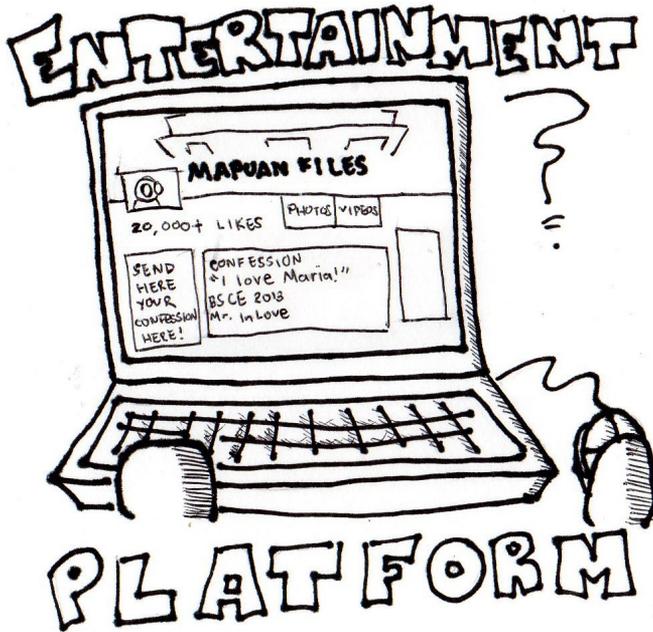
~ Things to Remember

- If you want to be with us in our revolution, start it by NOT pirating this book.
- By being with us in this revolution, you just made a difference.
- If you want to use the power of hacking for good, then this book is for you.
- We are teaching hacking to make our cyberspace more secure.

002

BECOMING A SUPERHERO

“When I was 13 years old, I found out about this kind of power (hacking), I explored it. I want to have that and use it to save the world. I want to save the innocent people from the invisible hand that controls us without us knowing. I want to start a revolution that all of the people can have this kind of power to defeat evil. But who am I? I am nothing. I cannot save the people if the people themselves don't want to be saved.”



2.1 HACKING is the Modern-Day Super Powers

When I was in college, we have this so called "Mapuan Files", a Facebook page that everyone in the MIT (Mapua Institute of Technology) community can rant about what they feel about their professors, subjects, love lives, weird moments, and unforgettable moments anonymously. They just have to click the website of the page and fill up the form where you will put your story, no true name required, just a pseudo name. The Facebook page became popular and it was also became the most popular entertainment place online in our college garnering 20,000+ likes and have more than a thousand of active audiences. It went well until the villains came into the picture.

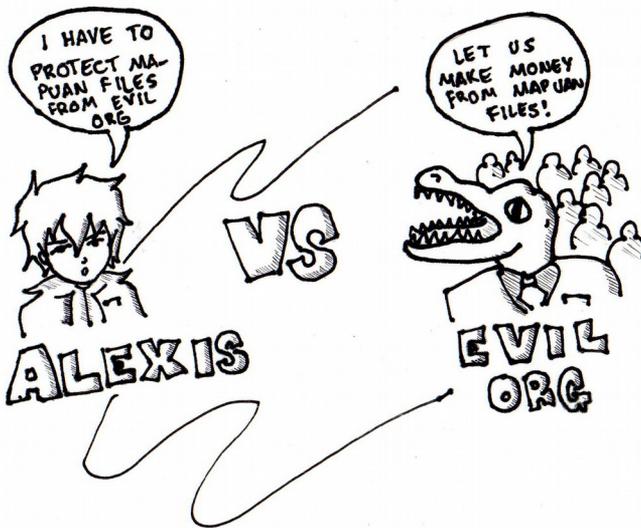
There is one organization for profit (let's hide it in the name of "Evil Org") who stealthily controlling and changing the Facebook page, Mapuan Files, to an advertiser page. You can still see some stories and rants (some of them are scripted related to their products) but most of the time there will be some post about their products and some advertisements alone. Here it is again, the invisible hand that controls the joy of the viewers of this page. Taking an advantage to the people by this kind of trick, the Mapuan Files from the freedom page is turning into a profitable and corrupt page.

I remembered that I can do something about this. I have the super power called "hacking". I can stop this kind of tricks of this Evil Org on the page. People of Mapua community are complaining already that time about how the page from freedom page turns into a business page where only those businessmen will benefit monetarily. So here I am, talking to myself, *"Should I do something?"*, *"Should I fight these businessmen?"*, *"What will I do?"*, *"Am I afraid?"*.

I came to my dormitory and think about these things. If I will make a move, then probably there's no turning back. This thing I will do can make my life miserable if not executed well. After all, those student businessmen can be a moron in this kind of battle, but based on the rules of Sun Tzu on the Art of War, "Don't belittle your opponent."

Having this kind of power can be a great blessing and at the same time, a curse. It is because if someone needs a help and I know I can help them using these skills, there are times that I chose to not help them. My other self is talking to me like this: *"You cannot save all the people in this world, so why bother?"* and the other self of mine is talking like this, *"You can help them, you can make a difference."* I know I sound stupid and my guilt was killing me inside.

The modern-day generation doesn't seem to realize that a hacker can do bigger things. They don't realize that hacking is not just a skill, but a power. Imagine yourself being in control of the digital world like adding zeros in your money in your online bank account, changing your grades in your school server, knowing what your partner say in their private messages in any social media, taking some pictures of your crush using her web cam all of it without the victim's consent. Of course, all of those big attacks can be countered by hackers also. That's how powerful a hacker is. They're playing like a demigod in the world of cyberspace by being in control of any other devices. And like the other heroes we know, they chose to use these powers to help others. The saying about the Spider-Man movie comes into this picture, "With great power comes great responsibility."



And here I am again, thinking that helping the Mapuan Files community is my responsibility since I have that kind of power that can really help them. Then here it is, there are some rumors that this Evil Org is the one behind those posts in

Mapuan Files who humiliate someone like professors, students or anyone that can come against them. They made it a trend by not just using the 20,000+ audiences in Mapuan Files but also on their Facebook pages, personal Facebook accounts and websites just to make that person feel that they are fighting a godlike organization. So I conducted my research and talked to each victim, then I came up with a single conclusion. All of the victims had a bad relationship with this Evil Org so in my point of view, there is something fishy going on and I have to prove it and make my best move.



2.2 Using the Power to Protect

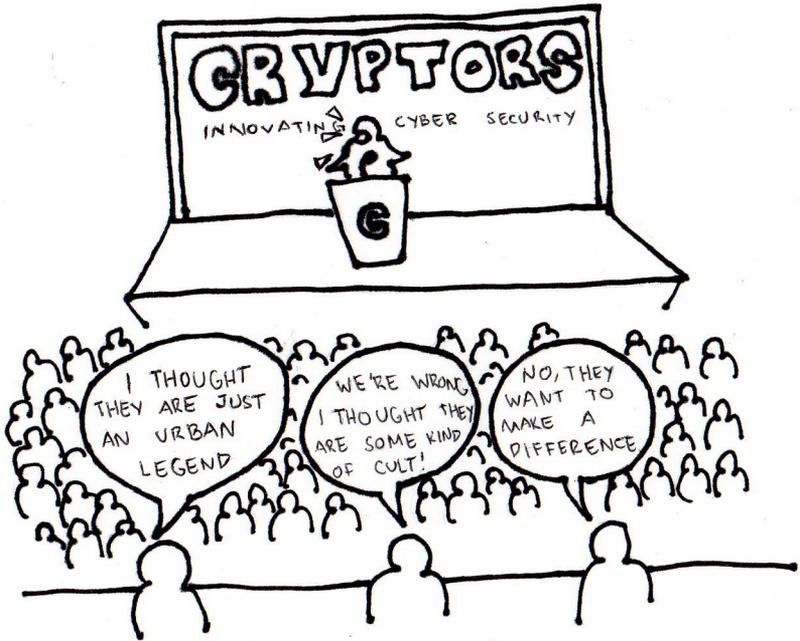
There are some superheroes that have the power of invisibility. That's also a power of hacker. Ordinary people will have a hard time to see them since they are inside your computers, your smartphones, and any other devices you have. They can anonymously kill you or destroy your lives without you knowing.

A hacker can hack your pacemaker in your heart (if you have) and kill you. They can hack the airplane you are riding, enabling them to destroy it. They can break the electric grid to cause power outages that can cause deaths of many patients in some hospitals and much more. They can hack your car and fully control it. Worse, they can control drones that can go to your house and shoot you to death.

These things can be done by a Black Hat (bad hackers) and we should know how to stop them. Why? You are not responsible to save all of the people in this world, but I bet you won't take it to see your loved ones suffer from these kinds of hacker attacks. Therefore, make a move and do what you have to do. Go wash your face, make sure you won't be sleepy and finish this book because this book won't tell you how to use tools yet but will focus on molding you to think like a hacker which is more important. If you are a normal person who uses a tool you cannot hack without tools, but if you think like a true smart hacker, even if you don't have tools, you can hack like a pro.

Let's talk about Barnaby Jack, who discovered vulnerability in ATMs that can spit out a lot of cash from the machine. Imagine, if the Black Hats are the first one who discovered that flaw, what would you think will happen? Of course, expect the worst. That's why our White Hats just like Barnaby Jack saves the day by discovering the vulnerability first and make things more secure before it get attacked by Black Hats. They hack, to protect and you can choose this path for it makes a lot of money peacefully and of course, a great deed for humanity.

Going back to Mapuan Files story, I was thinking back on that day that I can protect the people from the invisible hands who are controlling them. The solution? No, I will not deface the website of their organization (the Anonymous way) but I will shut down the whole Mapuan Files Facebook page and make it alive again with different administrators. After that, Mapuan Files Facebook page again will serve the people for freedom only and never again for profit and corrupted stories. As usual, hacking a Facebook page is not an easy job so I have to make a concrete plan. I call my best friends/ hacker buddies Irous, which I find the greatest "Social Engineer" in the campus and Carmelo, which is the most supportive friend and I've ever had in the campus.



In my college days at Mapua Institute of Technology, I created an underground organization called "Cryptors" (a start-up company now started in 2015). That organization, they say, is a mysterious one. The members are hidden to the public; no one knows who the mastermind is and who the officers are. The only certainty in this group is that the masterminds are having a gathering to train officers in the field of "hacking". Those are the things the campus only know about that organization so many of them says that we're just an urban legend but here we go, talking to you in this book to prove that I exist and Cryptors existed in that campus as an underground organization.

I started this organization for a cause, to teach the people of this generation to become White Hats before they became

Black Hats and also, to raise awareness regarding cyber security starting at my school, next is this nation and then the world, one step at a time. However, traditional people misunderstood me; they say that I am creating monsters. That's why they want to find my real identity to teach me some hard lessons and that is to punish me. The reason? First, my underground organization is literally underground. We meet like an organized syndicate, we have a secret handshake, secret hideouts, code names, and lastly, we are not an accredited organization because I want to keep the darkness and mysteriousness of the organization which makes it unique to all of the other organizations in the campus. Lastly, they found my cause as extremely evil, "teaching the students to become criminals" they say.

They say that I create monsters. They don't know that all of us have a monster within us. Someone who is ready to eat people alive just to profit from their business selfishly, lie publicly to steal money from the people, make a device that can kill a lot of people just to make money, make a food that can slowly kill people just to make a living, all of us have their own monsters, own selfish interests, own secret dark sides and no one have the rights to say that they don't have monsters inside them. And what I'm doing that day is training them to become good monsters before anyone like me turn them into an evil one. I made them a monster that has a power to destroy everything but will choose to become good for the betterment of humanity. They will be monsters that can have a greater power and strength to defeat those evil monsters.

Do you know Hulk? He's a human that can change into a huge green monster with great strength to smash all, even you in just one hit. He is a monster, but trained to become a hero of humanity. At first, people try to kill him because he is a monster, but there are some people who believe in him that he

can be a good monster and become a benefit to humanity.

That's the same with humans. All of us can be a monster someday that can have the ability to smash or destroy something very big. I am not telling you that you will change into a huge green monster like Hulk and have that kind of strength too. What I am telling you now is that you will have the power someday to control something and destroy something and one of those powers is hacking. The power of hacking can destroy the lives of people, a whole nation or worse the whole world.

And I am one of the people who believe that they can be changed into a good monster. So what I do in that underground organization is to turn them into a monster and later, teach them how they will become a benefit to humanity using those monsters inside them. It's good to expose them earlier on hacking and train them to have a strong foundation of being a White Hat (good hacker) before they discover it with a wrong intention and use it in evil. It is because in this generation, there are no teachers or mentors who will spend much of their time to train our young hackers to have a strong foundation of thinking like a White Hat. They just go to the hacking tutorials very quick and just say, "We are not responsible in anything you will do with this knowledge" or something like, "Use this for educational purposes only" and to be honest? You cannot build a strong foundation in their minds by just saying those things. Chances are they will just use it on anything they want whether they broke a law or not.

Going back to Mapuan Files story, my great cause in shutting down the Facebook page is to reset it back into a freedom page where anyone can rant about the truth of what is really going on in the campus whether it's about the system or the people. No more corrupted stories, no more humiliation of named

people and no more people who will play god. That will be the rule in the new world I'll create inside the most popular entertainment platform in our college where freedom reigns. However, Irous, Carmelo and I plan this very well that it takes months for us to finalize and execute the plan.

2.4 Using the Power for Personal Gain

Unexpectedly, there is someone who hacked first the Mapuan Files Facebook page. They call themselves "Anti-Cryptors". When I heard that name, I thought, "Oh, really? We have a hater? Ha-ha-ha" and we have to adjust the plans we created for that matter. However, what I don't like with these hackers are... they exposed my identity to the public as the Cryptor's founder saying something like this, "If there is someone who have evidence that Alexis is the founder of Cryptors a.k.a. "Cryptor001" then message us here. We have to punish this founder to death." Cryptors, I think this time is not anymore a mysterious one because the founder was exposed indirectly to 20,000+ audiences on that page.

Worst, they posted a picture of me on Mapuan Files Facebook page and say stupid things to me. In my mind, I said things like these, "*Are they blocking my plans? Do they know my plans? Are they playing with me? Who is this hacker? Are they just the original admins? Do they want to piss me off?*". Then another day came by and this time, Anti-Cryptors, using the Mapuan Files Facebook page, are posting something like this, "Alexis, if Cryptors is a legit HACKER group then hacked back Mapuan Files in one week. If not, then you just show the world how much of a loser you are." Of course, I know it's a bait and I won't play with them.

Irous, Carmelo and I talked about this event. Adrian Once and Neyo Ibarra, the other co-founders of Cryptors also joined me in thinking a plan. The other 9 officers of Cryptors (Emman, Reggie, Gilbert, Kent, Claudette, Alyssa, Rufter, Karl, and Ace) cheered me up in what's happening. I am so blessed that I created this organization for I have this wonderful friend of mine who will support me in times like this. Now, I can think of a plan clearly.

Irous and Carmelo joined me in planning, and we have an assumption that if ever I hacked back Mapuan Files Facebook page from the "Anti-Cryptors" then there's a huge possibility that I would be the one also to point who hacked Mapuan Files which is the Anti-Cryptors. We also think that these hackers wannabe playing behind the Mapuan Files Facebook page as Anti-Cryptors can be the Evil Org who has control in the said page. But in my mind, I said something like this, *"How did they know our plans? Do they want to bring down my whole underground organization? Why? Because we are starting to get the spotlight? Is this how they really play? A dirty trick?"* It's starting to make sense for us. I called Geff, the creator of Mapuan Files and asked him, "Who is running the page?". He answered, "My Facebook account was hacked. Evil Org just bought the Mapuan Files Facebook page so you can ask them. I really don't have access now in it. I'm sorry for what's happening to you." and I went to the Intramuros walls, 5pm in the afternoon, while thinking that what I am facing right now can be the Evil Org itself and I have to take things seriously right now.

They just used the Mapuan Files Facebook page's power for personal gain. It's getting worse and I have to stop them as soon as possible. However, something unexpected happened. The Mapuan Files Facebook page acting as Anti-Cryptors just posted a status about the plan of the Evil Org to make a new

world order like system in the campus where they are in control of everything and one step of that is to buy the Mapuan Files Facebook page. Another post is a picture about the Evil Org founder's conversation with Anti-Cryptors Facebook page saying like this, "Hey, I have evidence that Lingad is the founder of Cryptors but please don't put my org's name on Mapuan Files page." Then the Anti-Cryptors answered, "Show me that you are not in the side of Lingad" and the founder of Evil Org replied, "He is a liar and a loser". The founder of Evil Org is acting as my friend in the campus since I was in 1st year, but he just showed you his true color in this thing.

I am starting to go crazy and talk to myself, *"What the heck is going on?! Is Evil Org and Anti-Cryptors a different person? Is this how they play the game of confusion? Are they playing with my mind? I am tired of this. I'll going to do the hack since I have a few hours and 6 days left."* That time, I didn't know why I am thinking like that. However, one thing is for sure, we will do the hack.



2.5 Using the Power out of Curiosity

In my second day before the seven day-deadline ends, there is some dummy Facebook account that messaged me every hour that he is the Anti-Cryptors who hacked the Mapuan Files Facebook page. I didn't reply, but I went to Irous and Carmelo to tell my plans to them. I said, "I know what to do now. I will hack the Facebook account of that dummy account that messaged me earlier, claiming that he is the Anti-Cryptors. Then, if that's the admin then we just hack back Mapuan Files". However, Irous exclaimed to me, "It's risky! I won't allow you to do that. After you hack back Mapuan Files, the side of the Evil Org will point at you that you are also that Anti-Cryptors and they will say that you did that to gain popularity and for the advertisement of our organization!". Carmelo added, "There's a possibility that Evil Org is not the Anti-Cryptors. There could be someone who is above us who's in control with this Evil Org and Cryptors event." I replied, "Yeah, that's why I'll hack it. I am tired of these questions. My curiosity is killing me here. I want

answers. Maybe this mystery man who controls these things is leading me into something."

I can feel that Irous and Carmelo are very afraid of what will happen to me if I hack back the Mapuan Files. I understand them, since the very beginning of this organization they are with me, together with Neyo and Adrian, to build something that can make a difference in this world. Just one wrong move in this situation, those things we've built so far will be useless. Neyo called me to be careful and Adrian joined me to eat dinner and talk about my plans. I am starting to feel uncomfortable because they all treating me like this is my last day with them.

The third day, I started to hack the dummy account who claims to be the Anti-Cryptors. I know this is kinda scary because I don't know who is playing with me, but I started a brute-force dictionary attack (A password attack that can find every combination of words, numbers and symbols in your word list of possible passwords). I was shocked, that in just a minute, because of the simplicity of his password I gained access to his account and the password is kinda scary, "boobytrap" (To those who don't know what a booby trap is, it is a hidden bomb that explodes when the object connected to it is touched or moved). And it is true, he is the admin and the only administrator of the hacked Mapuan Files Facebook page, no Evil Org.

By this time, I can now post on Mapuan Files Facebook page that Cryptors just hacked back the page from the Anti-Cryptors. However, there is something bugging me that time. If I posted using the Mapuan Files page that I already hacked back Mapuan Files, then Evil Org will do all the things desperately just to blame me that I am just the Anti-Cryptors to humiliate me and my organization and play like a god that punishing an innocent like me is the right thing to do because they don't have any clue who could be that Anti-Cryptors. Of course, in my mind, I

said that the possible way that they will show that punishment is through their social media accounts and pages and to their website.

After that, I proceed with the plan we made for months. I won't show you the whole idea of the plan yet, but I will reveal it, soon in this chapter. The Mapuan Files community is asking the Cryptors to hack it back already. Well, I just did it, but I will let them know soon.



(The picture used in the operation with a great speech)

2.6 Becoming the Modern-Day Superhero

When the signal came from Irous, I posted the picture of mine with a great speech in Mapuan Files Facebook page. We entitled the post as “Mapuan Files Retrieval Operation”. The people of Mapuan Files community were shocked because they thought that hacking Facebook is impossible. The people thought they were watching a real life hacking movie and they were so amazed.

In that day, I got a lot of friend requests in my Facebook account. I became popular and of course, Cryptors organization too became popular in the campus. I just showed my identity into the 20,000+ people but, still, I hide the identity of my colleagues in Cryptors that time and you'll know why. Cryptors, in representation of me became the superhero of the entertainment platform of the campus from the villain they

know called "Anti-Cryptors".

However, I'm thinking on that day, "How Evil Org will kick me out in the picture?". Yes, we are expecting that Evil Org will make a move to humiliate me and punish me like a god. That's we are waiting for, we want to show it to the people how evil they are. And as usual, they think that I took their bait, well, yes, I took their bait to make my best move possible.

Cryptors shut down the Mapuan Files Facebook page as we planned and bring back the original administrators of Mapuan Files. We also bring back the creator of Mapuan Files, Geff, as an administrator of the page which is the new adjustment in our plans. We need him to be an admin so that Evil Org will have a way to get the Mapuan Files back into their hands. By that process, Evil Org can humiliate me to the 20,000+ audiences like they always did to their victims.

Why Geff? Geff is known as the creator of the Mapuan Files. In short, when you say Mapuan Files, it's Geff, almost everyone knows he is the creator of that page. Anyone with any concern in Mapuan Files will go to Geff but the rest of the administrators are hidden. Evil Org can control Geff because Geff owes them a lot, so we are assuming that the next move of Evil Org is to control Geff in giving the Mapuan Files Facebook page to them.

After 2 days, my popularity went down and my dignity was destroyed. Evil Org just do what we are expecting. I thought it would be just a small punch in my heart but it's not. I was humiliated to the 20,000+ people of the Mapuan Files Facebook page saying stupid things to me like, "Lingad is also the Anti-Cryptors, the impostor and fixer" and so on. Well, I carried all of the heartache and the weight of the situation. The important thing is I know now how their victim feels when they play god using that damn social media.

The plan is not yet over, we called Geff and asked him if he's still an administrator of the page and he replied, "Not anymore, Evil Org just owned it, but he will make me an admin soon as a show of respect of being the founder of this page." Then I told him these things, "Geff, we want to have screenshots of the administrators on the page. We want to know who used the Facebook page on humiliating people. We also want to remove them as the administrator of that freedom page for it will not be longer a freedom page if they are the admins. And by doing that, you just made a difference, you made history." and Geff replied, "It's the founder of the Evil Org who posted things like that to you. I'll make you an admin once I get access to it, but I have nothing to do with these. Just act that you hack the page again and I'm done." Gotcha! I didn't have to hack Geff's Facebook account technically to have access to the page. That's what you called reward social engineering. By telling him the reward and by tickling his emotions, there is a huge possibility that they will let you control them and you have to know that if you are a hacker, you have to hack also a mind, not just computers.

After an hour I became the admin of the page and screenshot the administrators of the page. As usual, all of the main people of the Evil Org are there. I removed them as admin and made the cycle again. Make Geff as the administrator and let the Evil Org control Mapuan Files. I posted the screenshots of the administrators of the Mapuan Files and let the people know who's behind the posting of those humiliations. Many of the people who saw that picture conclude that Evil Org is Anti-Cryptors just to frame me up and bring down the whole organization. My parents were forced to transfer me to another college for they are worried in me, eating death threats for breakfast.

I know some of you is asking, "Why you didn't just owned Mapuan Files and never give it back to them?". When we retrieved the Mapuan Files Facebook page, we gained thousands of solid supporters in our goal. When Evil Org humiliated me, those solid supporters saw how evil the org is. Thousands of people were awakened to what is really going on about the Evil Org. They start to spread the idea about that org. They can destroy me, but not the idea.

When we started to spread the pictures of the administrators of Mapuan Files, the Evil Org threatened me by calling lawyers and posted some embarrassing screenshots of my chats with other people I made in the past (they managed to control those people and reveal our private messages), they are unstoppable of humiliating me to thousands of people just to stop me in spreading the truth. However, I didn't stop and the people who believe in me never stop spreading the idea. I got a lot of threats, but it's worth it.

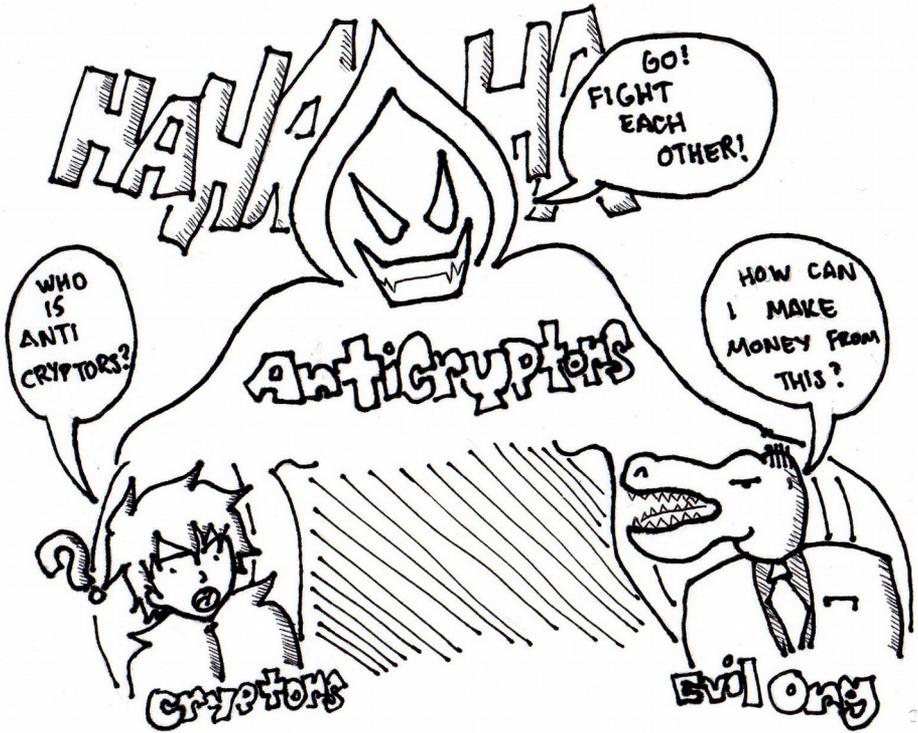
The master plan is not finished. After I leave, Evil Org will be comfortable and at ease in using the Mapuan Files Facebook page. They didn't know that the real trick in our plan is to let them use the page. Why? The idea is like a virus and it is spreading around the campus- the idea that Evil Org is using the power of that page to play like a god in the campus. After this event, the humiliation and advertisement in the page continues. We are just waiting now if who will push the button to explode the bomb in the face of Evil Org.

After 6 months, there are a lot of people who supported Sir Edward, who filed a case against the Evil Org. The org was humiliated like what they did to their victims. They suffered from what they did and justice was served to the victims.

Hackers have the power to control anything. And for you to be

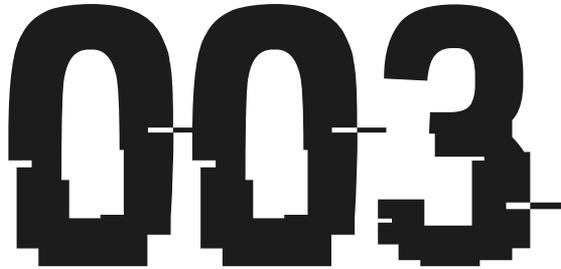
in good terms, just use that power to help people who are in need. Use the power for the benefit of the many. Use that power to make a difference.

Before we finish up this chapter, I know you are asking in your mind like this, "Then who is the real ANTI-CRYPTORS?". By this time, we don't have any idea who it is but will reveal somewhere in this book. They say that it is the Evil Org just to frame me up and bring down my whole organization. However, I know how Evil Org plays the pieces and for me, Evil Org does not qualify to be the Anti-Cryptors. Maybe Carmelo is right in his statement, *"There's a possibility that Evil Org is not the Anti-Cryptors. There could be someone who is above us who's in control with this Evil Org and Cryptors event."*



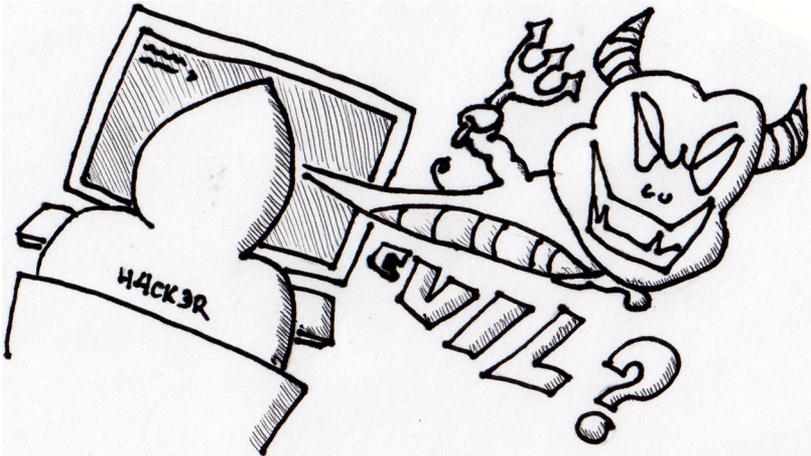
~ Things to Remember

- Hacking is not just a trick, but a power that everyone can use for good.
- Hacking was used to protect, for a cause, for personal gain, and for curiosity. However, as a White Hat hacker, you must use it primarily to protect.
- Hacker is the modern day superhero.



MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT HACKERS

“When I was a 13 year-old kid, my ultimate dream is to become the greatest hacker in the world. It sounds stupid, but I managed to tell it to my family at that young age. All of their foreheads wrinkled, not because the idea of being the greatest hacker is stupid, but because for them the idea of being a hacker is stupid and my mom shouted, “Stop dreaming like that! Hackers are ridiculous! You should not become one of them.” Starting that day, I observe and explore why people think that way about hackers and here it is.”



3.1 All Hackers are Evil?

I was once invited to the Philippine Army by my friend named Joey. He is one of the bosses in Philippine Army's Technology field. Fortunately, he wants me to become one of his security researchers and a partner in exploring ethical hacking. Then I went to his office and I had fun talking with him about ethical hacking because he really understands what is really going on in the cyberspace.

When the lunch came, we ate with the other soldiers and Sir Joey introduced me as a "hacker". When the soldiers heard the word "hacker" they started staring at me for a second with scary eyes. However, they started smiling after more or less 3 seconds and started asking me questions like, "Do you hack bank accounts? Deface websites of the government like Anonymous? Are you an activist who hack for political reasons?". That was one of the scariest time of my life being a hacker- soldiers, who think hackers are mostly bad guys, asking me about sensitive topics. Just one wrong move will get me

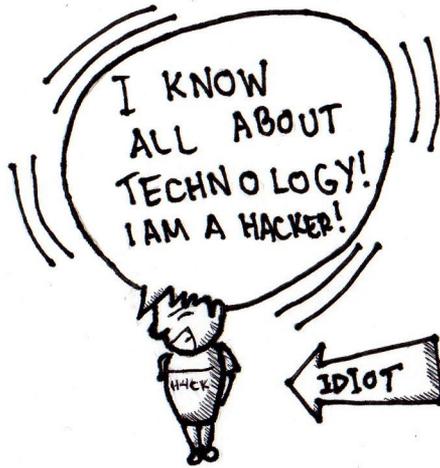
imprisoned.

Fortunately, I managed to be calm and think of an answer and said, "I hack ethically, with permission." Luckily, they stopped asking questions and just eat. I breathe heavily and told myself, "At last, no more questions! Ha-ha-ha"

In this generation, the population of Black Hats is increasing much more than the White Hats. That's why the media and a lot of people in this world think that hackers are ridiculous and evil. They tend to think that when I say hacker, it means stealing credit cards credentials, modifying the numbers in a lottery, and so on. These things happened because of Black Hats with the help of the media and influential people who think hackers are evil.

In an interview, one of the journalist of a known college in Manila asked me, "How can we change their perceptions about the idea that hackers are evil?". I replied, "We must create more White Hats." Simple as that, because the White Hats expose the tricks used by Black Hats to the normal internet users. The more White Hats, the more tricks will be exposed to save billions of lives, and more Black Hats will be discouraged since there will be so many White Hats who will secure our cyberspace.

Therefore, not all of the hackers are evil. Just to give you an example, let's talk about Barnaby Jack. In "Black Hat 2010" hacking conference, he showed how to reprogram some ATMs to spit out cash by just using his laptop. By discovering this kind of vulnerability, he worked with some ATM manufacturers to make a software update and stronger safeguard to counter this kind of hacks.



3.2 All Hackers Know Everything About Technology

When I was in college, my professor in Mapua Institute of Technology joined me as one of the participants in the Inter University Programming Contest. Our competitors here are some great schools in Metro Manila like University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, and so on. At this age, I was just starting my career as a hacker, but most of them think that I already knew everything about programming. They think about it for there are some students who said to our professor that I was invited by the Philippine Army as a security researcher. Just because I am a hacker they expect me to become a programming genius, although that time I am just in the middle of learning programming in college (I was 17 years old).

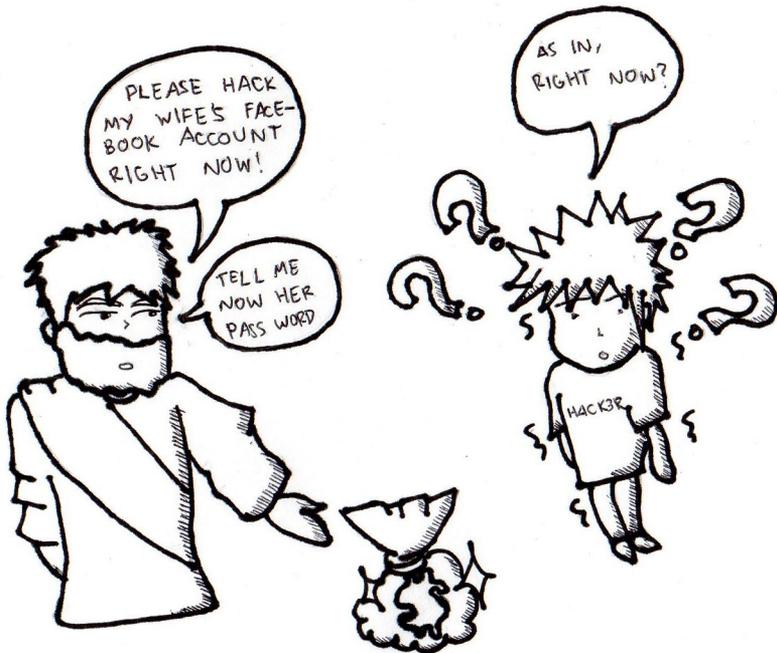
When the contest started, we were no match to our competitors. I was defeated, but I learned a lot. The saddest thing in this competition is that their expectation of me was

very high to the point that they thought I will become the champion. Well, I was just starting in my career as a hacker back then so don't expect me to become genius already who knows everything.

In hacking, you just have to learn the basics of programming, operating systems, networks, etc. You don't have to be genius in each field. The very important thing is you understand that certain topic in order for you to modify it and do what you want. It is good to be great with these subjects, but it is not required for you to be a genius and super expert in this field, just know the basics and how it works.

When I was 18 years old, I joined a hacking competition in What The Hack: IT Security Summit. The competition is called "Hacker Games" where we will hack a certain system with a corresponding documentation. Some of my competitors already have PhD., Masters, or even a Bachelor's Degree in technology courses but I am not. This time, I am just a college student, but my team ended up being the Hacker Games Champion so what I am saying now is you don't have to be a super expert like a holder of a PhD, Masters or even a Bachelor's Degree just to become a hacker.

Our technology today is very dynamic. It changes from time to time and it's a big challenge to the hackers to cope up with these changes. Even the expert security researchers are having a hard time coping up with the new technologies arriving in the market. The most flexible ones are the winners in the hacking world and you don't need to be an expert in every field of technology just to do this. However, let's be honest that being an expert with multiple topics can really help you but not a requirement.



3.3 All Hackers are Magicians?

When I went to my hometown, one of my neighbors gave her USB flash drive to me and wanted me to fix it. The problem of that USB flash drive was that it got washed by water and suddenly broke into pieces because one of her kids hammered it badly. And as you all know, most of my neighbors also know that I am a hacker so they are expecting me to do some magic and fix that thing. Terrible! I quickly said to her, "I am not a magician. I can't fix this." and she became very disappointed with me shouting that a Hacker Games champion can't fix her USB flash drive.

Some of the traditional people in this world think that a hacker can do everything related to technology. They are expecting us to do things in a blink of an eye that seems to be impossible.

Many of them think that hacking is in just a click of a button you can hack credit card credentials, power grids, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and so on. Not in this world my friend, not in the hacker world.

Hacking is power. Therefore, we must apply the formula of power in physics here which is:

$$\text{Power} = \text{Work}/\text{time}.$$

Don't worry guys, we will not do math in here just a formula to express this thing. I just want to emphasize that hacking is not done by just a snap of your fingers.

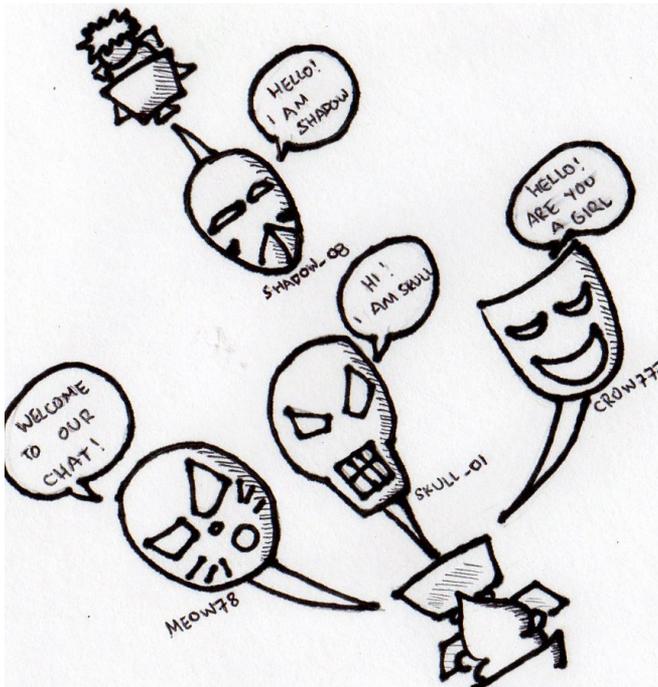
As you can see, there is the word called "work". In order for you to hack a certain system you must apply work in it, therefore you will exert force. Maybe that force is the thinking process. As usual, during the Hacker Games some of you will imagine us that we are typing so fast to hack, but the reality is most of the time, we are thinking of the smartest and the easiest way.

Another word that you can see in the formula is "time". Some of you who frequently watch Hollywood hacker movies tend to think that in just a matter of seconds, the hacker in the movie can hack the nuclear weapon of other countries, or shut down the power grid of the whole nation. All of it happened in the movies by just typing fast on the computer with black terminal and green fonts. This kind of hacks is possible, but it takes time to do this attack, depends on the work needed in the fulfillment of the hack.

In reality, the time span to hack a certain system goes up to several weeks or months. The time span depends on how secure the target system is. The more secure, the more work you should apply.

Therefore, a hacker is not a magician. Sometimes, there are

some similarities like in the art of deception. Hackers and magicians tend to use this art to gain something. That "something" for hackers can be to attain valuable information and while for magicians, maybe to amaze the audience. Anyways, I am not a magician so let's go back to the hacker topic.



3.4 All Hacker Groups are Well-Organized?

Have you heard about the popular hacker group that has a mask? They are one of the well-known hacker groups internationally. They tend to play god and justice by hacking the people who commit criminal act or just a terrible act. Well, they hack illegally so they also commit crime so why not hack themselves?

In November 3, 2015, it was reported that Yaya Dub's Twitter account was hacked by this masked hacker group in the Philippines (*Yaya Dub also known as Maine Mendoza who are well-known internationally together with Alden Richards*). This hacker group claimed that they did the attack for the upcoming "Million Mask March 2015" and to tell our government to stop

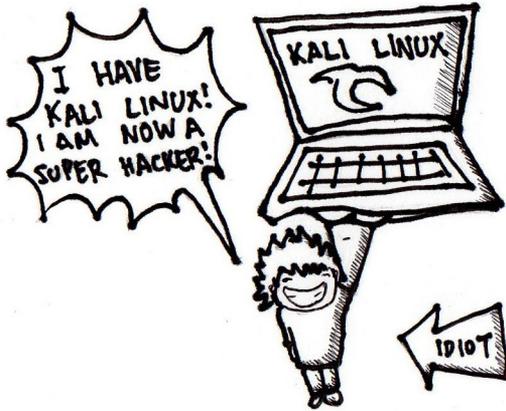
corruption. Anyways, this kind of attack was ridiculed by the hacker group members in other countries, telling that what they did has nothing to do with the International community of that hacker group. Also, millions of supporters of Yaya Dub enrage their feelings to that hacker group telling that what they did has nothing to do with the government and it's too much personal.

As a result, the NBI helps the Maine Mendoza's side to catch the hackers because that hacker group just broke a law. Based on the law of the Philippines, in **Republic Act No. 10175 / Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012**, it aims *to address legal issues concerning online interactions and the Internet in the Philippines including the cyber offenses like "illegal access to data"*. However, good luck to NBI if they will catch those culprits with their technology right now.

As you've read a while ago, the other members of that international masked hacker group seems like they don't even know what this hacker group in the Philippines did and take no responsibility in the said event. This can prove to us that they are not well-organized. They move if they want to move, no leaders and no rules. As a whole, after that event, this hacker group in the Philippines gave a public apology to the Filipinos on what they did to Maine Mendoza's online account. After all, don't forget that these hacker groups help us to see the truth behind our government's anomaly. However, most of their solutions to stop the problem are unethical and not well educated.

Aside from this masked hacker group, there are a lot of hacker groups arise in the cyberspace. Most of the time, to keep their safety from one another, they won't show their identity to the other members. This kind of arrangement is hard to manage because what if that 10 person is just one man or some of the members are police who wants to catch the group. I hope this

will make sense now to you that it's hard to manage this kind of group who you don't trust or don't know if they really exist.



3.5 Having Hacking Tools Can Make You a Hacker?

Do you know the stethoscope? It is one of the doctor's tools to hear the internal sound of a human body. What if a kid uses the stethoscope, does it mean that he is a doctor already? No, it will not make him a doctor, but the knowledge of what the doctor does together with his tools can make him one.

That is the same story with hacking tools. When I was a kid, I have the hacking tool called "Dark Comet". It is a remote access Trojan that can give you a power to control other computers remotely, take pictures via their webcams, or listen to their conversations via their microphones connected to their computer even if you are just sitting in your home. What you need is just an internet connection and a laptop. This tool can help you to make a Trojan; this Trojan is a malware that if you put in the target's computer, you can now have access to the target's computer in just a matter of seconds via your laptop.

I used this tool in our computer laboratory in high school. It was a sunny day, and we have a website making class. I use my USB

flash drive to make my job easier. What my USB flash drive will do is that once I plug it into the computer, it will automatically open and execute the Trojan there. How? Let me show you the simple trick.

On your laptop, open a notepad and copy paste this lines in it.

```
[autorun] open=trojan.exe  
ACTION=Perform a Virus Scan
```

And then, save it as "autorun.inf" then copy paste it inside your USB flash drive. The "trojan.exe" there is our Trojan file that we created using our Dark Comet. Don't forget to copy paste also inside your USB flash drive the trojan.exe file.

When my teacher went to the restroom. I was shouting inside of my head, "*This is my chance!*" I know you will hate me for doing this, but I did it. I went to each computer and plugged it in. My classmates didn't bother to stop me in what I was doing since they are so busy talking with one another about their love life, gamer life, weird life and other kinds of life they have. I managed to execute it in all of the computers in the laboratory before the teacher came back.

When I came back to my house, I opened my laptop and the Dark Comet to see how many sessions or computers I've got. The next day, due to my quite arrogance, I told all of it to my computer teacher with a proud voice. However, he just laughed at me. Later, I found out that he asked my other classmates if I am mentally stable. Yes, he thinks that I am crazy.

Then the story circulated in our school. One of the things that circulated was the tool that I used. When they found out what tool I was using, a lot of hacker wannabes in our school suddenly popped up and used it in the computer laboratory.

One of those wannabes was (let's hide him in this name) Adam. During our class, he plugged in his USB flash drive in my computer and tried to lure me by talking with me gracefully and interestingly. When I look at my computer, it was blocked by Windows Defender (Fail!:D). I forgot to tell them that you should encrypt your Trojan files because the more you encrypt it, the more it will be harder for any antivirus to detect it. Well, his face showed that he's in trouble that time and just walked out due to embarrassment. He probably thought that I am not the only one having that kind of power in our school. However, most of them really think that I am a crazy weird person so that's good for me because they won't dig too much in my hacker life.

Moral lesson? It takes time to truly become a hacker. Even the "me" that time wasn't fully developed as a hacker yet. You need to have the hacker's mindset and learn the basics of technologies such as programming, networks, operating systems, and much more to understand very well how hacking works. At that moment, Adam thought that because he has the hacking tool, he can also be a true hacker which is not true.

JOHN WANTS TO BECOME
A HACKER

INPUT =  WATCH/READ & LISTEN TO TUTORIALS, EXPERTS, ETC.

PROCESS =  APPLY IT & PRACTICE DAILY

OUTPUT =  UNCONSCIOUSLY,
YOU JUST BECAME
A HACKER

3.6 All Hackers are in the Same Age Group?

Do you know the kid named Reuben Paul? He is the CEO of the Prudent Games and one of the youngest ethical hacker in the world, having an age of 9 by the time I wrote this book. He created iPhone applications that will teach people about math, science and cyber security in the form of a simple game. He also speaks and demonstrates hacking in some hacking conference like DerbyCon and 2014 Houston Security Conference. Some of you might think it is too much for a kid, but the truth is, anyone can be a hacker once he fully understands the things he must learn.

In this case, the father of Reuben is a professional ethical hacker and managed to teach Reuben all of the things he will need in that field. Reuben also has a burning passion about cyber security and that's why he managed to utilize all of the

learning materials and advice his dad has given to him. For now, he is developing another application that will help the world learn while playing. By knowing his story, we can pick up a lot of lessons that can and will destroy the limitations we are giving to ourselves.

Let's talk about my story. Being the CEO of Cryptors and a senior security consultant of iEi Securities at the age of 19 is very challenging. However, I managed to be on the run by hacking my mind. Yes, you've read it right, *hacking my mind* and what I will tell you right now can make you roll over the floor for this is a huge revelation for some of you. I'll explain about how it works and show you how easy it is by explaining how a computer works.

A computer has *input* like the keyboard so for example if you type the letter 'K' in keyboard that will be the input. The computer also has a *process* like CPU (central processing unit) where the data you input to the keyboard will be processed in it. Lastly, we have the *output* like monitor that showed us what we input. That's how a computer works and computer was designed and patterned from the mind of the humans.

The *input* of humans is the five senses, which are the sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch. Let us have an example: If Roy frequently watches a lot of Dragon Ball Z and any other violent cartoons, then he is seeing and inputting the violent movement of the characters in his mind (he is also inputting what he hear). The *process* of humans is no other than the brain. All of what he senses is processed in the brain. Lastly, the *output* is the result of what he inputted in his mind. If he inputted the violent movement of the characters in the Dragon Ball Z in his brain frequently then you'll see a lot of Roy who has a violent characteristic like punching and kicking.

So if I inputted in my brain things like the hacker's mindset, coding, networks, Linux, social engineering, ethical hacking then what will you expect? The technique is, input only what you understand so that your mind can process it and can make a result. Input first the things you understand and level up little by little. Therefore, it is very important for you to know where to start but don't worry, this book will tell you all the things you need to start in your journey of becoming a hacker.

So in conclusion, whether you are young or so old if your mind is running well then you can be a hacker. You just have to love it and of course, in order for you to learn to love it you must explore it. It's just like loving a real person; you can learn to love the person if you managed to know him/her well. Therefore, explore and know more about hacking!



3.7 The Real Definition of Hacking

When the **Hacker Games** started, I found myself hopeless because almost all of the participants are professionals and I am just a student. All of them are grown up and that time, I am just an 18-year-old kid. They have so many laptops and my team only has one. In this competition, we should have 5 members in a team, but only 1 of my members came and that's my cousin, Leizl, a businesswoman. We will be eliminated if we are just two so I pulled out a friend from the audience, Adrian, a programmer. The worst thing is I am the only one with a hands-on experience in hacking. The two of them just know it theoretically so in my mind I was saying, *"Okay, let's just enjoy*

the moment of being in this competition.” Lastly, the judge came to us and asked us if we will still continue because he is worried for us. I managed to say, “Yes, we will.”

The name of our team is “Cryptors” which is also the name of our company, but to avoid humiliation in the name of our company we just change it into “Creepy”. We changed it since we know that there is a huge chance of being the lowest in the rank. Different kinds of bad luck us in that competition. However, we forgot something.

The game is not just about *exploitation* of the system, but also about the *documentation* of the whole process. We assumed that most of our competitors will focus in hacking the system. However, our team is focused on hacking the whole game. So how do we hack the whole game? Here it is.

Thanks to my yesterday self for I bought some premium automated tools in hacking before the day of the competition and some of it has a “Money Back Guarantee” so I am thinking that I'll just use this money back guarantee to get back my money if I won't use these tools. These automated tools are just a last resort weapon in case of emergency. And what I liked to these chosen tools is that they're proven to be superb and accurate like humans. So these tools are likely to become my best last resort weapon in the upcoming Hacker Games.

Going back to the competition, almost all of them are showing muscles in hacking by doing the manual methods of hacking. I know, that time, I won't win in showing muscles in hacking for they are five in their team and I am just one who hack in my team, the speed of their manual methods can be 5 times faster than mine. So I am pressured to think of the smartest way in this scenario. I have to hack the heck out of this bad luck! I don't want to do this thing, but I was forced to use my last

resort weapon, the automated tools I have. These tools can make my manual methods faster than anyone in the competition.

By using these tools, some of the referees who go around looking what we do is, maybe, laughing and thinking that we are just a script kiddie. Well, that's part of the plan, we use those automated tools to save our 50% time in the competition, and these tools make my manual methods up to the shortest time. The other half of our time is used in beautifying our documentation with proper illustrations where even the executives can understand (Thanks to my MBA graduate cousin and team member, Leizl, who is an expert in doing documentations). Well, as you all know, because our competitors are focusing too much on the manual and traditional methods, some of them have a simple and not-so-good documentations and worst, some of them don't have documentation due to the intense showing muscles in hacking. As a result, we just hacked the whole game and ended up being the champion.

I want you to understand in this story that hacking is not just about infiltrating a system. *Hacking is also done by thinking the smartest and easiest way to infiltrate the system.* In our case, the system is the whole game consisting of people (competitors, referees and judges), instructions (game is about exploitation and documentation) and tools (superb automated tools). By hacking the whole game, we just made it to be the one in control in the competition. That's why one of the referees named Gil, a cyber soldier, asked us, "Why you are just relaxing and eating chocolates? The last round had started! Start hacking!" and as you all know, that's the perks of being in control, you know what is really happening in the background so you can relax and have some chocolates but the one who was hacked won't see it.

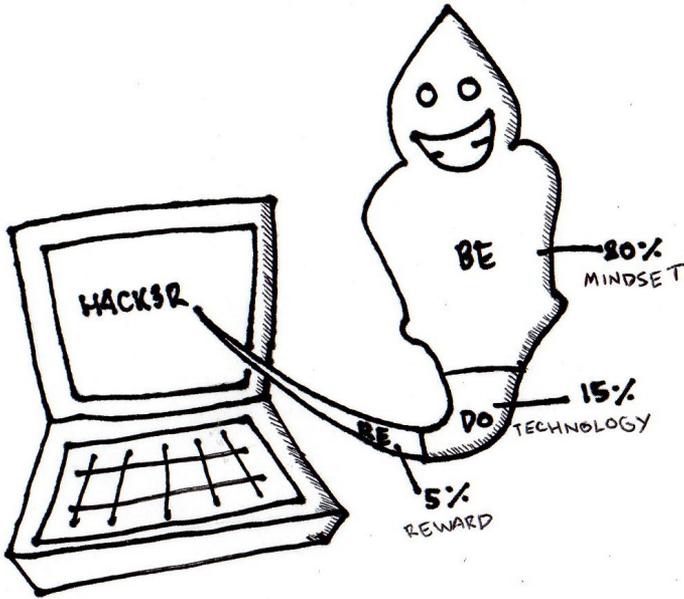
~ **Things to Remember**

- Not all hackers are evil. Some of them are making our cyberspace more secure.
- Hackers don't know everything about technology. They have expertise maybe one or two, but not all.
- Hackers are not magicians. You can't ask hackers to do an illogical or impossible thing in just a snap of a finger. It needs time and work.
- If you have hacking tools, it doesn't mean that you are a hacker. You must have a hacker's mindset to be a real hacker.
- Hackers can be anyone, no age limit.
- Hacking is about finding the smartest and easiest strategy in exploiting the system, not just to exploit the system.

004

BE-DO-RE HACKING

“When I met Mr. K, one of my professors in Mapua who knows hacking, I learned that hacking is not just all about doing the tricks. He said, “*Hacking's major component is thinking like a hacker, a Be-Do-Re hacker*”. This statement really intrigued me until I found the answer.



4.1 The Be-Do-Re Hacker

The world of hacking I know you are thinking is too dark, mysterious and adventurous. Well, the truth is, the world of hacking is full of liars. It is full of technology experts who know how to use hacking tools, but lie to themselves that they are hackers. It's just like the kids who knows how to use a stethoscope (a doctor's tool) and claims to be a doctor, a man who discover how cars was built and claim to be a mechanical engineer, an employee sitting in the CEO's chair when the CEO is not around just to claim the ego of being a CEO. The world of hacking is full of lies and I will give you a power that has given to me in this chapter to distinguish who's the real one.

Mr. K, one of my mentors in hacking just showed this kind of world to me. Anyways, let me tell you first the epic story of how

I met him in Mapua, the college where I studied computer engineering until the Mapuan Files came into the story. This happening is one of my unforgettable moments that made the Alexis, who is writing this book, a white hat hacker.

In my first year in college, I was eager to find people who are like me who are interested in hacking. However, almost all of what I encountered is interested in computer games, full academics, love life, night life, and passing their subjects no matter what. Well, I also value my academics and passing my subject, but life is bigger than that to just put my whole life on it. Even if I study hard in college, I always give time to explore what I love because it will lead me faster to success than imprisoning myself in school stuff.

Until one day, I've got to talk with some of the second year students and they told me that there is one professor who teach about hacking in his classes if there's an excess time. They named it Mr. K and they say that he is in programming classes. Then I said in my mind, *"I want to meet that person and know what he is capable of doing in terms of hacking."* So I hack the way out just to meet him in person.

I went to his department and look at his schedule. I made a letter saying that I want to learn from his experience in hacking and I will share my thoughts too in the same topic and many more. That letter will be given to him by my friend Neyo in his programming class. Lastly, I didn't put any name in the letter and tell Neyo not to expose me because I just want to know how he will react in the letter to know what kind of person he is.

I know some of you will just say that I can meet him after the class and just show person to person in him. However, I am not that kind of person. I always want a thrill and mystery in most of my work so I did it. The day goes by and Neyo already gave

the letter to Mr. K.

I talked to Neyo about what happened when he gave the letter. Neyo said, "He read it out loud in the class. Being proud that he has a fan and a wannabe apprentice." Okay, in this detail I can assume that he is too proud of how great he is. Let us see if he is also great in the hands-on hacking. Neyo added, "He wants to meet you. He said that you can attend some of his classes so that he can talk to you afterward." So I will meet him, it's show time.

When I went inside of his class, I saw him on the professor's desk. Do you know the appearance of a rock star? That's my first impression to him, long hair, good posture, humor, charisma, he has it all. I'm thinking if he's really into hacking so after his class I talked to him politely and told him that I was the one who wrote the letter.

I saw in his eyes that he was shocked. In my mind I'm saying things like this, *"Okay, maybe he is expecting a hot girl? Or a super geeky nerd? What is he thinking? Oh wait, I am a long haired too, maybe because of that?"* After a few seconds, he started offering a handshake like we are some kind of partners in crime.

He started introducing himself and said this line, "Can you hack Facebook accounts?" I paused for a while, and said this line, "There are no 100% secure in cyberspace. Therefore, it's a yes." He smiled at me and he shouted, "At last! I found you!" I don't know what he is talking about so I asked, "What did you mean you found me?" He said, "Let's take a walk."

We walk around the campus while he is telling his horrible stories of wannabe hackers. He said, "I was working with

different so called security analyst. They called themselves ethical hackers because they stop hackers and they counter hack them. However, I don't label them as true hackers." I asked, "Why? They are doing the hands-on thing!" Then he replied, "Not because they know the hands-on, they already hackers." He added with a smirking smile, "I asked them too what I asked you a while ago if they can hack Facebook accounts and they answered me terrible things." I asked again, "What did they say?" He replied, "They said things like these, *It's impossible!, There are no hacking tools for that!, Are you joking!?, That's bullsh*t!*" He added, "Those things are terrible answers, a proof that they are not a real hacker."

I was starting to get his point little by little so I ask him again, "What is the exact terrible thing in that answer?" He answered me, "Hacking is just like this:

- First, choose a valuable target.
- Second, study the details about the target.
- Third, find a way, not just a way, but the smartest and easiest way for you to hack it using what you've gathered in the second step and what you have in yourself like skills and hacking tools available. This is the strategy making phase where you will list all of the possible methods to hack the target.
- Lastly, execute all of the possible methods you made in the third phase. Try first the methods that have high success rate."

He added, "And I want you to see it that you can apply it to everything you want to hack. For example, the hacking of Facebook accounts. First, you have to choose a valuable target and that is your victim. Second, you must study the details of the platform and in our case the www.facebook.com website

like how it processes the forgot password, the retrieval system and so on. It can help also to study the details about the human who use the account because a human stupidity can never ever be patched. It is the *Know your Enemy* method for you to know what are the possible methods to hack the target. Third, think of the smartest and easiest way to hack the account. List all of the possible methods. To me, one of my possible methods I see is by answering the security question of the victim. I can just have a simple walk and talk like this to know what is their street, what's the name of his first pet and so on in the middle of chit chat with the victim. After knowing the answer to the victim's security question, you can now access his account. Lastly, for you to able to do that, of course, you must execute the possible methods you just made. That's it! And they say it's impossible? They say that a hacking tool for that doesn't exist? Real hackers find ways! Not reasons!" I was shocked how he made hacking so easy to understand with those steps. Starting that day, the line "hackers find ways" marked on my mind in every hacking situation I'm in.

After being amazed of what he said he added these lines tapping my back and looking to me, "I met numerous so called hackers in the industry but there are only few real hackers in it. I want you to continue that kind of thinking. When you told me that there is no 100% secure in cyberspace and you can hack it, I know you will find a way. That's how a real hacker thinks because the major component of hacking is thinking like a hacker, a Be-Do-Re hacker"

I was so inspired by what he just told me that day but something is bugging me in my mind saying, "What is a Be-Do-Re hacker? Why Be-Do-Re?" Anyways, he knows I don't know about the Be-Do-Re hacker so he quickly added, "Be-Do-Re hacker means: **Be** a real hacker by having a hacker's mindset, **Do** the hack which is the execution and get the **Reward** which is

your motivation. All of those steps I gave you is the step used by a Be-Do-Re hacker." As much as I want to talk with him a lot more about the Be-Do-Re hacker, I cut the talk for my next class will start in a few minutes.

.After that walk, my view of the hacker world changed. After that wonderful day, we continue to meet and share ideas about hacking and I decided to create Cryptors as an underground organization together with my friend Neyo, the person who help me in connecting with Mr. K and also a cyber security enthusiast.

4.2 Be, The 80% of a Hacker

When I was with Mr. K, I was expecting him to teach me some hands-on hacking. I want to see the details in hacking some of the most secure system in the world. I was hoping that we will use some hacking tools and play with it. I am expecting him to teach me some scripting techniques, but he didn't for now.

Instead, what he is teaching me is to think different, to be patient, to be resourceful, to be observant and many more that I think, no real hacking occurs. I was disappointed until he said this line, "If you have the hacker's mindset then you can hack even without hacking tools." I asked him, "How will you do that? Hacking is a computer stuff and must be related to computer, right?" He replied, "**No, hacking is never a computer stuff but a mindset.** Our mind is a better computer than the computer you see right now. And as you can see, your hacker's mindset will be with you as long as you live unlike the hacking tools that can be vanished anytime. This is the **Be** (be a real hacker) part in Be-Do-Re Hacking, which consist the 80% of the

hacker.”

When I heard that thing, I am still confused. I said to him sarcastically, “How can I use my mind to hack the FBI? CIA? And Pentagon? You will train me to do some telekinesis that can control machines using my mind?” He was patient and laughing at me, he replied, “Ha-ha-ha, as I expected. We will not use telekinesis. In christian stories, do you know how the man became a sinner?” In my mind I was saying this, “Oh, so now he's teaching me to become a pastor.” But I replied to him politely, “Yes, because Satan tempted Eve to eat the forbidden fruit.” Then he said, “From the beginning of this world, hacking is already there.” I was just quiet, thinking what he meant by that.

He started to make the details and said, “Satan hacked Eve. First, he chose Eve as a valuable target. Second, he studied the humans and we all know that he knew humans more than us. Third, he finds one of the vulnerabilities of a human that doesn't die, **curiosity**. He thinks of a plan and strategy on how he will talk to Eve to press that curiosity in her mind. The plan was to take Eve in the knowledge of tree and let her wonder what was the taste of the forbidden fruit. Then, by his consistency of giving ideas and rewards Eve may get in eating this forbidden fruit, eventually, Eve will be hacked unconsciously. Remember that hacking means gaining control of something or someone. Lastly, he'll execute the plan. That's why the history saying that hacking was started in the 19th century is not real. It was started from the beginning this world was created. The plan and strategy in doing that hack with the hacker's mindset are the **Be** part which is the most important then the **Do** part is the execution itself, where the success is mostly depends on the **Be** part's creation and feasibility.”

I started to get the meat of was he's saying. Hacking is gaining

control of something or someone, but because we are in this era where technology rules, the instruments we usually use are the hacking tools and any technology that can help us in gaining control. By using that story, I understand now that our mind is the greatest tool we have in hacking. Mr. K added these lines, "You can hack everything or everyone using the greatest hacking tool and computer you have which is your mind. That's why I am teaching you to control the power of your mind, to think like a true hacker because a true hacker believes that his mind can do impossible things such as hacking everyone or everything. All of us have that power, but only few know how to use that power. Luckily, I am teaching you how to use it."

That was a huge revelation in my life. After that scene, I'm starting to think differently from others. I started to realize that from the start, I already have the greatest hacking tool already. However, I was blinded by the traditions of the hackers today that the greatest hacking tool is in the program they use like Metasploit, Nmap and many other popular hacking tools today.

This is the most important part of being a hacker because with this, you can hack everything and everyone easier than those who only know how to use technical tools. This is also the longest training of a hacker compare to the **Do** and **Re** because the most difficult to learn is to unlearn what you had learned. Today, cyber security trainings tend to teach you how to use tools, and the basics such as the terminologies but no one focuses on teaching to build a hacker's mind within the students. The number one reason is most of the hackers today doesn't have a strong foundation in building a hacker mindset, they just know how to use tools and it's the end of the story. Well, I congratulate you for reading this book because this book will give you a strong foundation of how to think like a true hacker.

Well, the important thing now is you know why the **Be** part in Be-Do-Re hacking is the most important. It is the hacker's mindset creation and planning part in Be-Do-Re hacking where most of your time will be eaten. However, I chose to make a whole different chapter for that to emphasize it more here in this book. In chapter 5 entitled, "How to Think Like a Hacker" will tell you the details of how to think like a true hacker and develop strategies differently from the normal people.

4.3 Do, The 15% of a Hacker

The **Do** in the Be-Do-Re hacking is doing the hack. This is the execution while the **Be** part is the planning stage and developing the hacker's mindset. To execute things in hacking, you must be confident with your skills. That is because there are so many times that the execution part became different from what you expected.

What I am telling you right now is there are some things that a pure human cannot control. These are the things that the only one can control the situation is the God who created us. Another thing we cannot control sometimes is the human itself that is not perfect. A human can sometimes make some errors and it is a nature of humans that we must consider in our plans and thinking.

Being flexible in the execution is a must. You must have a second plan, third plan, fourth plan and so on in case the first one didn't become effective. The execution part really depends on the plan and strategy you've made on the **Be** part. If your **Be** part is a trash, then don't expect that your **Do** part will become effective.

In order for you to become confident, you must be knowledgeable in the things a hacker must know in this era. That thing is the technology. Hacking is not about technology, but it can help your job become easier. The things you must know in order for you to become confident in the field of hacking are:

- 1.) Hacker's Mindset
- 2.) Computer Fundamentals
- 3.) Linux
- 4.) Networks
- 5.) Programming
- 6.) Social Engineering
- 7.) Penetration Testing

You don't have to be an expert in all of it. The important thing here is you know how it works. Remember, hacking is all about gaining control and these things can be your weapon in this age. In the old days, the ultimate weapon of hackers was psychology, but today, it's technology.

Having a hard time thinking why you need those 7 things in hacking? Well, having a hacker's mindset will help you to think like a hacker so that you can hack even without tools or with just a few tools. Knowing the computer fundamentals will give you the details on how computer works, what are the different parts of it, and many things about the hardware and software of the computers that will help you give a basic idea on how to compromise it. Knowing how to program will help you to build your own hacking tools and automate most of your work in hacking. Knowing how to operate a Linux can be a great advantage to a hacker because most of the hackers today use a Kali Linux operating system to process their technical hacks. Knowing how the networks work also gives you a great

advantage for you will learn here how the computers connect to each other. Social engineering will help you to hack humans, which is the most vulnerable since there is no patch in human stupidity. Lastly, penetration testing, in here you will learn the actual hacking and you will never understand this thing without the knowledge of the last 6 topics I just told you to learn.

I want to congratulate you for taking the first step in learning ethical hacking. We will give it to you little by little since we want you to fully understand each topic. We want you to have a solid foundation in each topic so that you won't have a hard time understanding the penetration testing later. It is better to study and understand the things you need to know in ethical hacking than to act like you understand it even if you don't.

4.4 Re, The 5% of a Hacker

Re means get the **reward** and all of the hackers have this thing when they successfully hack something. The rewards can be recognition that you successfully hack something and make it more secure. Sometimes it's money that they'll give for discovering vulnerabilities in their system. This is also important for a hacker because it is the main reason why they are doing the hack.

I want to ask you these questions: **Why you're reading this book? Why you want to learn ethical hacking?** Your answers to these questions are the things you want to get as a reward. That reward is your motivation and that motivation will push us to move and do something. That something is the reason why our hacking is successful.

4.5 Finally

Going back in my conversation with Mr. K I said, "So the **Be** is the process of building the foundation of your hacker's mindset?". He replied, "Yes!". Then I added, "How about the steps in hacking which is

1. Choose a valuable target.
2. Study the details about the target.
3. Creation of possible methods using the smartest way and valuable information you've gathered in the second step.
4. Execution of possible methods from high success rate to the lowest.

Where I will place those steps in Be-Do-Re hacking?". Mr. K answered, "The steps 1 to 3 must be the job of your **Be** part then the **Do** part is the step 4. The **Re** in the process is only the motivation that pushes you to do the whole act.". I love asking questions so I asked again, "Sorry if I have so many questions, but can I really **hack everything** by just using these steps you gave me?". He answered, "See for yourself and use it responsibly".

As you all know, I used it in every hack I made in my life. One of the examples is what we did in Mapuan Files hacking and in the Hacker Games 2015 where we became champions. You can use those steps also in everyday life because **hacking** is not just about computers. It is about solving a problem and fixing things, then have a smarter solution, new ideas, new methods that can make it better. In my case, as a computer hacker, we find holes in every system and we fix it using the smartest solution we have to make their system better.

White Hats (good hackers) make our world a better place. They push everyone to improve and innovate because if they don't, they'll be hacked by the Black Hats (bad hackers). That's why

we created this book, for you to become an additional in the white hackers who will make our world a better place. That's why we started this kind of revolution, to create more White Hat hackers in the next generation and make a more secure world.

~ Things to Remember

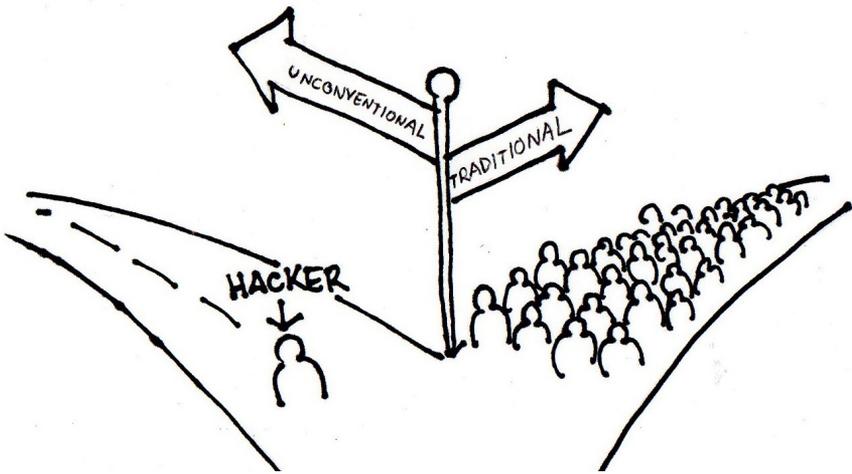
- Our mind is the greatest hacking tool we have and all you have to do is to customize it into a hacker's mindset.
- Hacking is never a computer stuff but a mindset.
- **Be** is the process of building your hacker mindset which is the 80% of a hacker.
- **Do** is the process of execution usually by hacking tools (15% of a hacker).
- **Re** is all about the reward which is the motivation that makes you move and do something (5% of a hacker).
- Steps in hacking are:
 - Choose a valuable target
 - Study the details about the target.
 - Creation of possible methods.
 - Execution
- White Hat hackers make our world a better place so we are creating more White Hats through this book.

005

HOW TO THINK LIKE A HACKER?

When Mr. K told me that he wants me to think like a hacker as a training I asked him, "How will I do that?". He told me I need to think of these:

- Think Out of the Box
 - You Can Achieve Anything
 - There is NO 100% Secure in Cyberspace
 - Hackers Dig Deeper
 - Be P.R.O.
 - Choose your Environment
-



5.1 Think Out of the Box

When Mr. K told me to "Think out of the box" in the back of my mind I was saying, "Oh, I always hear that. I knew it already.". Until he told me the story of the "Allegory of the Cave" by Plato, one of the world's best known and most widely read and studied philosophers.

The Cave

- Imagine a cave, in which there are three prisoners. The prisoners are tied to some rocks, their arms and legs are bound and their head is tied so that they cannot look at anything but the stonewall in front of them.
- These prisoners have been here since birth and have never seen outside of the cave.
- Behind the prisoners is a fire, and between them is a raised walkway.

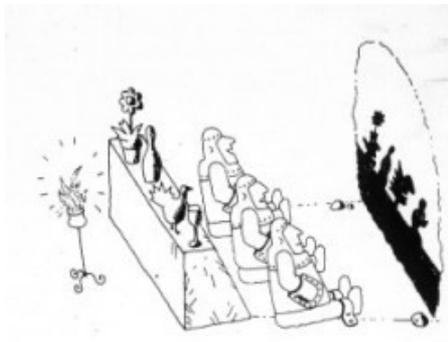
- People outside the cave walk along this walkway carrying things on their head including; animals, plants, wood and stone.

The Shadows

- So, imagine that you are one of the prisoners. You cannot look at anything behind or to the side of you – you must look at the wall in front of you.
- When people walk along the walkway, you can see shadows of the objects they are carrying cast on to the wall.
- If you had never seen the real objects ever before, you would believe that the shadows of objects were 'real'.

The Game

- Plato suggests that the prisoners would begin a 'game' of guessing which shadow would appear next.
- If one of the prisoners were to correctly guess, the others would praise him as clever and say that he is a master of nature.



The Escape

- One of the prisoners then escapes from their bindings and leaves the cave.
- He is shocked at the world he discovers outside the cave and does not believe it can be real.
- As he became used to his new surroundings, he realizes that his former view of reality was wrong.
- He begins to understand his new world, and sees that the Sun is the source of life and goes on an intellectual journey where he discovers beauty and meaning.
- He sees that his former life and the guessing game they played are useless.

The Return

- The prisoner returns to the cave, to inform the other prisoners of his findings.
- They do not believe him and threaten to kill him if he tries to set them free.

When I heard that story from him, I was amused and there's a lot of things running in my mind. I asked him, "What is the connection of this story in thinking out of the box?". He replied, "I am not a philosophy teacher, but I want to connect this story with the phrase, *think out of the box* in hacking. Here's my own explanation:

The Cave

- The cave represents the people who focus on thinking what is already there. They are the people who imprison themselves in the traditional things their ancestors gave them.
- It is applied also in our hackers today, most of them tend to think that hacking is just a computer stuff because the world told us that it's just a computer stuff. They were imprisoned in that thinking so they are limited to do the hack just around the computer stuffs.

The Shadows

- The shadows represent the perceptions or the beliefs of the imprisoned people. It is limited, what they see is only the shadow of the reality and not the reality itself.

The Game

- The game represents how people believe that one person can be a 'master' when they have knowledge of the imprisoned world.
- This master does not actually know any truth, and it is ridiculous to admire someone like this. This kind of master is the newbies and security professionals who tend to boast that they are a real hacker by just using tools and scripts they have in imprisoned world.

The Escape

- The escaped prisoner represents the person, who seeks knowledge outside of the traditional arena.

- The Sun represents unconventional truth and knowledge
- His intellectual journey represents a hacker's journey in finding truth and unconventional wisdom continuously.

The Return

- The other prisoner's reaction to the escapee returning represents that people or other hackers are scared of knowing the truth and do not want to think out of the traditional way. Life is bigger than the traditions and standards set by humans and we must go beyond those things
- The same thing applied in hacking, not because that's the way they teach you to do the hack then that's the best way to do it. You must come up with a better plan, and you will just do those things by going outside the cave and explore new things, by letting go of the traditions and standards created by the humans of this world. However, some of the people who explore new things tend to become lazy and unmotivated. People tend to become negative and all of the new things they just started to know or explore became nothing to them. That's why most of them tend to go back to what they already know and stop exploring the world outside those traditions and standards.

Now, you have the power to choose if you will continue imprisoning yourself or be free and explore new things and **think out of the box.**"

I was devastated. A new revelation was given in front of me.

While I was in deep silence, he added, "I'm amazed that you're still here with me wanting to learn for almost a month." I replied, "What do you mean?". He said, "You are the only student of mine who last this long. All of my past students tend to walk away and never show up when there is no playing of hacking tool occurs. Only a few people are like you who is not scared of the truth and always embracing change. You're very different from other students I had. They want power, but you? You want something a normal person cannot see, something extraordinary.". In the back of my mind I was saying, *"Does he know? That I am the mastermind behind the underground hacker org in the campus? The org that posted illegal recruitment posters in the whole campus? The org that spread business cards with puzzles in the campus? The org that recruited hundreds of students to teach them hacking? If he knew it then it could be risky"*.

While I was thinking and worrying, he started talking and said, "I know you are that one. I won't tell anyone.". I was shocked. I didn't know what to say and my heart was beating fast. I was questioning myself, *"Can I really trust him? Well, we've become really good friends for a month. Is that a basis of trust? Is he playing with me? I must be careful."* I said to him, "Yes. I am that person and I built that organization to share the treasure you are giving me.". He formed his fingers like a gun and shouted, "Bang!".

My eyes grew wider. In my mind I was saying, *"Oh no, have I said something wrong!?"*. He was laughing hard while looking at me. I asked him, "What's wrong?". He replied, "At first, I am not really sure and convinced that you are the mastermind of that underground org but when I said, *'I know you are that one. I won't tell anyone'*, you just spilled it out. What I did was a social engineering tactic that can spill out information. I act that I know you are that one and if you are that one, there is a huge

chance that you'll spill it out unconsciously". He added, "Don't think too much about the things that you see. Think also about the things you cannot see for it is more valuable to become a great hacker. As we said earlier, **THINK OUT OF THE BOX.**"

5.2 You Can Achieve Anything

"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

If you choose to become successful then you will become successful. If you choose to become nothing, then you'll become nothing. That's how it works; it's just all in your mind. The power of your mind is your greatest asset.

A typical teenager usually dreams of graduating with a degree, then get a job in popular company, get married and retire at age of 60. All of those things are the traditional ways of living in this world and that world is their comfort zone. However, I am different and usually go outside my comfort zone because we all know that life is bigger than that. As a result, I do things outside their expectations because the important thing for me at this moment is to learn, enjoy, and explore the mystery of this world outside the traditional way.

So at age of 17, I was invited in the Philippine Army to become a security researcher (*but I refused to accept*) and got a total of more than 10 awards in some science and technology competitions, inside and outside my college.

At age of 18, I became a known hacker in the issue of Mapuan Files hacking. My team became the 2015 Hacker Games Champion in one of the largest IT Security conference in the Philippines called "What The Hack: IT Security Summit". Last but not the least, I became the founder of the company that started the revolution in raising cyber security awareness around the world called Cryptors, Inc. We do this by organizing a very affordable seminars and conference in different colleges and companies, creating interactive learning materials about cyber security and creating a digital game where users can hack other users virtually and defend themselves for them to know what really happens in the real hacker world.

At age of 19 (*my age while writing this book*), I became one of the keynote speakers in some seminars and hacking conference in the Philippines. I was invited to become the CTO (*Chief Technology Officer*) of BitShield Security Consulting, a VAPT (*Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing*) company in the Philippines (*but I refused to accept because I am creating my own VAPT company in the Philippines*). I was invited also in the United States of America to become the senior security consultant in iEi Securities, LLC., also a VAPT company (which I accepted to help me learn in creating my own VAPT company) and lastly, got an award in NCR DOST Science and Technology Quiz Bee.

The people expect me to sit inside the classroom and focus in passing my subject. They want me to listen to my professors who, sometimes, just read their powerpoints in front or just self-study last night about the topic they want to discuss (*maybe because it doesn't cover their expertise, they forgot already that topic or it's a new thing*) which I can also do without a degree (*both reading the powerpoints and self studying about a new thing using the Internet*). They want me to focus on

getting high grades for me to have a flying honors after graduation, get a decent job, get married and retire at age of 60 because they think that success is something like that. However, I went to the unconventional way where I made my own curriculum and study the things I really love to explore instead of sitting in the classroom and force to learn a thing I am not interested in.

In schools, they say that the more exams you fail the more chance you'll become a failure. In the real world, the more failure you commit, the smarter you became because every failure is a great lesson to treasure. That is the greatest teacher of humans and a great thing to make humans smarter. However, the schools today doesn't want you to experience failing, if you fail a lot of subjects then probably you'll be removed to the system of that school or if you fail an exam then you will be teased by anyone. So what do you think? Is our school an effective teacher for us to be ready in real world? That was the question I am asking that day.

So what I did was I studied the things I need to become a hacker by myself. I self study Linux, programming, networks, database, social engineering, and of course, penetration testing. I apply all of those things in real world because studying them alone is not yet a 100% knowledge. I used Linux as my primary operating system, I sold my applications I created, I organized and play with the computer networks in my own home network, I create database for my websites, I talked with some random people in some places and apply social engineering to them and lastly, hack my internal network and other weak websites in the internet.

As of now, they always wonder how I learn hacking. I just told them this, "*self study*". They were shocked because some of the fresh graduates we have didn't know how to create website

they can make money of, make application that can help them automate their work, organize networks that can help them connect with other devices but me who is not yet a college graduate knows it already in detailed. Maybe because most of our students today didn't apply it and use in real world where 100% knowledge occurs because what they want is just to **pass the subject**.

I told you these things to show you that you can achieve things that seem impossible in the eyes of the people in the traditional world. By the use of **self study**, you can be anyone you want to be and you can achieve anything you want to achieve. The greatest thing about this era is we have now the **Internet** where you can learn all of the things you want to learn and all you have to do now is to just type what you want to learn. So all in all, if I am capable of doing that then you are capable of doing that too, and it can be much better than mine.

However, I am not Harry Potter to magic and make you a fully developed ethical hacker in just a second. It takes time and effort to fully achieve the things you want to achieve. Fortunately, by reading this book, you just started to make an effort to know how to think like a hacker and by applying these things, you just gained 80% of an ethical hacker. Unfortunately, majority of the people will give up in the beginning because beginnings are all about hard work and many people are too lazy for that.

I will tell you my beginning story. I was 13 years old when I started exploring the world of hacking. That time I just wanted to become a spy just like Ethan Hunt of Mission Impossible (played by Tom Cruise). I was fascinated by what a spy can do such as lip reading, fighting using hand to hand combat, shadowing people, disguising and ciphering. I was thrilled by

what they do because it seems extraordinary and it has the ability to save people.

I studied all of those abilities by attending some martial arts training, reading books about spies, and researching things about those abilities. That time, my classmates find me weird and out of this world because I think differently, always different from them. However, I just prefer myself as unique and extraordinary for I don't want to be like the most of them wasting their time on Facebook, spending their whole time in studying academics, and playing online games forever because LIFE is much bigger than that. I do it sometimes but I prefer to explore things I love to do such as exploring extraordinary things in this world.

I know you will hate me for this, but I got a lot of girlfriends way back during my high school days (30+ girls from different schools and cities and most of them are muses of their school or class). I applied to them one of the skills of a spy called "Social Engineering". This is a skill where you hack humans. You are gaining control over their mind. I studied it very well in books and the Internet then applied it in real life in hacking the girls to like me and become their boyfriend even though I am not so handsome.

Many of my classmates asked me how I did that and I said I read a lot of books and then they will start to walk out slowly. That's the usual reaction of many people today about reading books. They are afraid of it because they think that it is too boring. They didn't know that if you know where you will use it in real life and if you love it, then you will be excited to read it. Reading, watching, exploring and applying all of those things are the hard work I am talking about. They didn't want to realize it for they say that "It is too boring".

Well, it's like planting a tree. At first, you have to water it day by day and take care of it very carefully. However, once it starts to grow bigger, you will just get the fruits of the tree whenever you need it. It will also give you shade from the sunlight. It will be a great benefit to you unconsciously.

That's the same in achieving things. First, you have to accept that you can achieve that thing even if that's impossible for the ordinary. Then, do the hard work smartly by reading books and articles on the Internet that is worth it and many more. Lastly, apply it in real life because there are so many people on this planet that dream and plan too much but don't put it into action to make it possible.

So where can we use this in ethical hacking? If you will hack something big and very secure, thinking that you can hack it can be very helpful. You just need to do the hard work such as studying about the target and so on. Then after that, apply it and execute the methods you created. This is very helpful because people who think first that they cannot do it already lose in the battle because they helped themselves to not achieve it.

For Mr. K, I already passed this test to him when he's training me. It is because when we first met and he asked me a question if I can hack Facebook accounts I said yes because there is no 100% secure in cyberspace. In just one question, he already knew that most of the trait he is finding in a hacker is in me. The next trait I just acquired in that question is the phrase I told him when I first met him, "There is NO 100% Secure in Cyberspace" which is the next topic.

5.3 There is NO 100% Secure in Cyberspace

Sadly, humans are not perfect. They always have a flaw. Humans created the cyberspace. Therefore, cyberspace can always have a flaw.

So why learn cyber security if anything can be hacked? Kiddo, cyberspace is just like the meatspace (the human world). We have numerous police and soldiers in our country but the crime rate is still high. Every day, there are so many people being killed, robbed, raped, and many more. Our police and soldiers have to defend our country and its people from the criminals and any kind of threat, but they don't destroy criminality and turn it into 0%. The truth is they just decrease the rate as much as they can. Why? Because the human flaw is for life, that's the human nature and no one can stop it.

Accept the fact that there is always a flaw in everything in this world starting from humans to the things they created, such as the cyberspace. No matter how secure your systems are, no matter how much you spend in your security, there will always be a flaw and that is a fact. So why secure? Well, just like in the human world, we want to decrease the casualty in cyberspace because a flaw will always be there and again, no one can fully stop it.

In ethical hacking, this is an advantage. It just means that even if they spend billions of dollars in their security, still, they can be hacked. You just have to be patient and more creative in finding a 'vulnerability'. This lesson will teach us that anything is hackable. It just depends on how fast you will find the hole in their system.

Want an example of how easy it is to hack a billion dollar company who spend millions of money in security? When I am doing a legal hacking (means there is permission) in some companies that I know, I sometimes just research and use telephone in hacking it. I will call some IT guy and act like the owner of the company shouting that there is some kind of problem in my company account. I'll threaten him that I will fire him if he didn't fix it very fast and give me some new username and password. Well, because of his fear that he will lose a job, he will give me a new username and password and also the link where I can access the account externally. Then, using the company account of the owner of that company, I will contact the technical team to give me access to their servers and of course, because it's an order from the highest position, they won't bother to give it to you. Then I will just hack that company with some small research and that's how easy it is. They spend millions of money for their technical security, but didn't spend a dime in training their employees in some kind of social engineering skim that can happen to them.

Well, I am not the only hacker who does that skim. Kevin Mitnick did it also in major companies in America. And by showing you that, you can now see how important ethical hackers in the new world we just created, the cyberspace. Imagine if I am a Black Hat hacker when I did that in that billion dollar company, terrible right? That's why I want you to be with me in the revolution of creating more White Hats.

In conclusion, anything can be hacked, that's why we must be updated on the latest threats in cyberspace for us to be aware. Being aware can help us to defend ourselves from these things. Even if you are the most secure system in the world or the greatest hacker in the world, you can be hacked. The only thing we can do is to lower the chance of us being hacked.

5.4 Hackers Dig Deeper

When there is someone who will ask me to hack someone's Facebook account or any other account I always shot them with a machine gun and throw their dead bodies in the river. Well, that's all in my mind, I am joking. I am pissed off when there's a ton of messages in my Facebook and email wanting me to hack someone's account. It's just like giving them a buck of money in just a matter of seconds for doing nothing.

The only advantage of hackers why they can hack is they dig deeper. What I mean is they study about their target thoroughly. They study how it works and every detail of the target because they believe that every information you will gather about the target can be used against them. And when I say dig deeper, it means research deeper than anyone can.

My ex-girlfriend, Michelle, is one of the best examples that you don't have to be a full time hacker just to hack Facebook accounts. She is not a full time hacker who studies like you on how to become a hacker. She just studied the platform of Facebook and analyzed how it works. Then she lists all of the possible methods and executes it in each victim and hopefully, I am not one of her victims.

Wondering what methods she uses? Simple trick here is the *method number 1*:

- 1.) She clicks the "Forgot Password" in Facebook website
- 2.) She inserts the username of her target (email and number can be an alternative).
- 3.) After the target's profile show up, she clicks the button

called "No longer have access to these?"

4.) After that, a page that's asking for a new email will show up and she'll just put a new email there that is not connected to other Facebook accounts. (If this doesn't work for you then proceed to the method number 2)

5.) If successful in step #4, she will end up with a security question. To gain the answer in this security question, can have a casual chit-chat with the victim about something connected to that topic so that they will not become suspicious. (Some of the accounts today have different security, such as the trusted account security)

6.) If successful in step #5, as usual, she can now change the password and go to the victim's Facebook and remove the email in the settings so that the victim cannot retrieve their account using their email.

This method above can be changed due to quick change and updates on their website. The meat of this topic is just for you to learn that anyone can hack by just digging deeper in the platform you want to hack. There are a lot of systems there that wouldn't require too much technicalities for you to understand how it works.

The *method number 2* that can she use is giving a fake Government ID to Facebook by editing –information such as name, birthday and picture to gain a "reset password". If you will dig deeper in the platform, you will see a lot of methods to bypass their security. All of it is not magic, it was gained by allotting time and effort to dig DEEPER into the system. The deeper you are, the more methods you will gain. That's how it works in hacking, no magic required, no tools required, just YOU digging deeper.

These days, they say that the youth is more knowledgeable in technology such as using social media accounts and shopping online. That's why our grandmothers and grandfathers, who don't experience technology too much in their age tend to call us for help in using their online accounts or anything about the technology. They see the youth as a technology persons who are more "techie". That's because the youth today tend to spend a lot of time in cyberspace, whether in social networks or online games.

What I am saying to you is for you to be advantageous too. You must spend a lot of time into your target's system. If you will hack a Facebook account, then spend a lot of time on Facebook, if it's on Twitter then be in Twitter. It's just like your crush; you won't know him/her well if you don't spend a lot of time with him/her. Not just to spend a lot of time, but to explore as much as possible.

Normal people just dive into the things they can see. The hacker dives into the places where only few can see. That's the greatest advantage of hackers and anyone can do it. Just be dedicated and diligent in finding things that can help you in the long run.

5.5 Be PRO (Patient, Resourceful, Observant)

Patient

When I am demonstrating a hack in some hacking conferences some of the newbies are disappointed. It is because they are expecting that they will see me typing fast, with a lot of black

terminal and green fonts all over my screen and in just seconds the system will be hacked with a note of "Access Granted" in the screen. Well, not in this world my friend. Maybe they have to stop watching Hollywood hacking movies where in just a second by just doing some typing in the keyboard they can hack CIA and FBI. I recommend you to watch Mr. Robot by Sam Esmail rather than the other hacking movies out there because this show is close to reality and will teach you the word "patience".

Patience is very important in the world of hacking. The more secure your target is, the more time it will take to hack it. Sometimes, it will take months or years just to hack one secure system. Just don't give up and tell yourself always that "There is NO 100% Secure in Cyberspace".

Resourceful

Hackers must know how to utilize what they have. That's why I am teaching you in this book not to depend too much on hacking tools. You, yourself, is a great tool and whether you are imprisoned in a place without computers, you can still hack your way out or the other systems in there. In this book, we are making you a **living hacking tool** that can **hack anything** under the sun.

Developing your skills can help you become a resourceful hacker for you can use those skills in hacking such as the skills in programming, operating systems, networks, and social engineering. The most important skill you must develop is the hacker's mindset. If you have a hacker's mindset then you will be extraordinary. You will start to see things in a different way and hack anything without depending too much in tools.

In every hacking, there would be different kinds of situation and you must **evaluate what kind of situation** you are in. For some hackers, they tend to panic when the time starts ticking when hacking some system for a limited time. Pressure can be a good motivator, but if it's clouding your mind to think of a solution, then just relax and you can now think of a solution. Always remember that finding a solution is better than worrying about the situation.

After knowing what kind of situation you are in, **assess what is available to you**. Remember that being resourceful is all about finding clever and creative use of your current resources. Ask yourself, "**Do you have access into something that might help in the situation?**". Always remember that resources aren't all about hacking tools; consider skills, people, and your hacker mindset.

After you assess the resources you will use, it's time to **use those things in unconventional ways** that can go against conventional wisdom or societal norms. Traditions and rules exist for a reason, but sometimes it holds back the progress in our way. Don't just go along with how things have always been done.

Improvise strategy in using those resources you already have. Don't be afraid to try new things because you can come up with a better solution. Always use your current situation to your advantage so that you can have a tremendous progress. Whether the situation is bad or good, always look at the bright side because who knows, that bad can possibly be your resources too.

Lastly, don't be afraid if the use of your resources came to a mistake because again, it is the nature of humans. Just **learn from your mistakes** so that it won't happen again. Work on it

in multiple angles and see what went wrong and go from there. This is very useful in developing possible methods in hacking.

Observant

"If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle."

-Sun Tzu, The Art of War

Adjust your mindset from a normal way of thinking to a hacker's perspective. If you are an observant then you must be aware of what your body is telling you. This can't always be described in a logical manner but just listening to your gut. Many people are not observant because they are ignoring things that they can't clearly explain, see or prove.

Always ask questions in your head or should I say question the situation you are in. Do this while having complete attention to the current situation so that you can assess what is really going on in your environment. By doing this, you can come up with a greater plan and strategy. At first, it's a bit challenging but keep practicing doing this and you'll feel that you're in control of the environment you are in.

Take the time to really listen. For example you are having some talk with the target. Be a good listener. Pay attention to the person's words, emotions, body language, and gestures to get the full picture of what is really going on. Don't interrupt the person who are talking, just nod when it's necessary, make comments when the conversation ask for it, however, don't say

“Yes! That's so true” every 5 to 10 seconds because the person will get distracted and the information he is giving you will be interrupted.

You can also **use the person's appearance** in knowing what is really going on. For example, your friend got a low score in an exam and he told you that he is okay but his eyes are red and puffy. In that case, he is saying to you what he wants you to see but by observing his appearance you will know what is really going on.

You must use your senses. Use your sense of sight to observe and scan your surroundings and people's behavior wherever you are. Use your sense of hearing to pay attention to all the different voices. You should be able to distinguish voices from a lot of noise. Use your sense of touch to know the mood of people. For example, if someone shakes hands with you and you find the person's hands sweaty, then the person may be nervous. Use your sense of smell to detect any smell that is out of the ordinary, like a sudden change in aroma of the area.

Notice what is not being said. What a person tells you is just as important as what he or she doesn't say, so pay attention for what's absent as well as what's present. For example, if your friend is always gushing about how amazing his girlfriend is, and suddenly, she doesn't come up at all in the course of a long conversation, then maybe something is up. If your father has been really excited about a big promotion at work, and then he comes home and only wants to talk about your schoolwork, then maybe things didn't work out. People often don't want to mention the disappointments in their lives or the things that they want to keep private. Be observant to see what's missing in a conversation.

Pay attention to the body language. Body language can be

another strong indicator of what a person is really thinking and feeling. If a person is standing up straight, looking straight ahead or like he's ready for the next big thing, then chances are; he's in a good mood and ready for success. If someone is slouching, hunched over, fidgeting with his hands or looking at the floor, then maybe things didn't go so well for that person today. However, if that's how the person always looks, then the body language may not mean as much but if you notice something out of the ordinary, then it may indicate a change in mood or emotion.

Notice your surroundings. Don't just pay attention to people. Notice how many cars are in the parking lot along with yours. Notice what kind of birds are flying around the beach that day. See which fruits are being sold in the grocery stores, and notice whether the prices have gone up or down since the last time. Keep your eyes and ears open at all times, and look for anything out of the ordinary, even if you're just walking down the street.

Well, all of those things were taught to me by Mr. K. There will be times that we will go outside the campus and he will call a friend to be with us. After that, he will introduce me and let me talk to his friends. We hang out in eating places and fortunately, I won't spend any money for that because Mr. K will pay for me.

The first friend of him that we met around the Intramuros walls was very boastful. He is the most boastful guy I've ever met. He just talks about only himself and his unbelievable achievements. He wants our topic to be just about him and if you turn the topic to a different thing he will turn it back to him

no matter what topic you set. His voice is very annoying and the odor of his breath is very disgusting.

I was pissed off when that guy started to belittle me and say things that I don't like. I walked out that time for I am about to lose my temper/for my temper is rising but Mr. K stopped me and whispered, "It's a part of your training. Becoming a PRO, patient, resourceful and observant.". In my mind I was saying, *"What the heck? What kind of training is this!?"*. Maybe my temper was too high that time that's why I can't see the significance of the training we are doing in that moment.

We met Mr. K's other friends and I made sure to myself that I will be more patient. While talking with his friends, I observed very well so that I will know how I will turn the conversation. Lastly, to make our conversation more lively, I use the trait of becoming resourceful by using my experiences, skills and interests. By being a P.R.O., I can now gain control of any situation I'm in.

Where can we apply these things in hacking? By using these, you can able to find more vulnerabilities in the system by being patient. Being observant will help you to see the vulnerability that a normal person cannot easily see. And by being resourceful, you can create the smartest unconventional method to hack the target. Well, if you have these then you are truly thinking like a hacker.

To be honest, that time when I am in that situation, I don't really know how will I apply it in hacking. I enjoyed our interactive training and I didn't felt like I'm in the middle of a training. I thought that after all those hacker mindset things we will proceed into technical and hands-on hacking. However, I was wrong. Something happened that I didn't expect and really

shocked my whole life.

5.6 Choose Your Environment

“Always surround yourself with people who bring out the best in you, not the people who bring out the stress in you.”

I had a chance to talk to sir Meric Mara, the man behind the first Linux distribution in the Philippines called KahelOS and the CEO and CTO of the 8layer Technologies. He is one of the mentors I encounter while making this book. He always tells me the things that I should do so I will be on the right path. What I am saying right now is you must surround yourself with the people who will inspire you, teach you and support you to grow as an individual.

Aside from him, I talked and surrounded myself with other people in the cyber security industry that can help me to grow as an ethical hacker. You as an individual must choose your mentors wisely. So how we can make sure that they are the right mentor? It is simple, you can see the proof of their greatness through their **works** and **actions** that is **visible** and **tangible** so focus on those things.

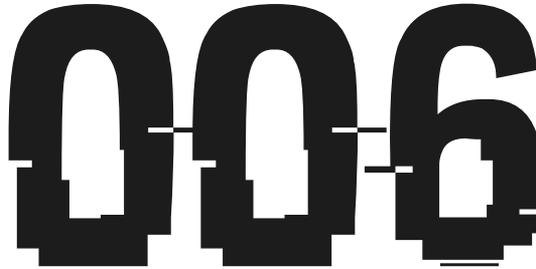
We must connect to a group of people that inspire us not destroy us. There will be people that will try to destroy you because of jealousy or insecurity and the greatest thing to do with them is to just **ignore**. It comes from the saying, *“Weak people revenge. Strong people forgive. Intelligent people ignore.”*. However, there will be times that someone will tell you your mistakes, not because they want to destroy you but they want you to learn from that mistake so be careful in distinguishing the people who wants to make you better and

the people who just want to destroy you.

When I went to college, the people I find first are the people who are actually interested in hacking. That's why I met Mr. K and the rest of the members of our underground hacking organization. If I surrounded myself with gay people that time, then what do you think will happen? Of course, there is a huge possibility that I will become a gay too in words, acts or thinking and this book will not exist. Fortunately, I chose the path of a hacker and create my best move to make a difference in this world..

~ Things to Remember

- Hackers always think out of the box, which means unconventional or out of the traditional.
- Hackers can achieve anything because it's all in our mind.
- Hackers can hack anything. It is because like humans, every system has its flaws.
- Hackers are patient and do not give up easily.
- Hackers must be resourceful and know how to utilize the things they already have.
- Hackers are observant so they can find an easy way to hack things around them.
- Hackers choose their environment carefully for this is a huge factor on what they'll become in the future.



MR. K'S STEPS IN HACKING

STEP #1: Choose a valuable target.

STEP #2: Study the details about the target.

STEP #3: Create possible methods the smartest way using the valuable information you've gathered in the second step.

STEP #4: Execute those possible methods starting from the one with the highest success rate to the lowest.

6.1 Let's Do the Hack!

Mr. K was so eager to teach me the real hack so this time we proceeded with hacking a real system. The only thing I was allowed to use is the things he taught. I was so confused that day that I said, "How will I hack a system using what he taught? He just taught me the hacker's mindset!". Maybe you are confused too, aren't you? Well, you are not alone. He just called me on the phone that day that I have to hack the database of his startup company in three days.

Here is another thrill: he won't be teaching me anymore if I fail to do the hack. He said that I have to be successful in this hack because this is the easiest test he will give me. Then after saying that, he put down the phone without letting me talk. That was so frustrating and I didn't know if he was serious or joking.

Now, what will you do if you are in my situation? I am not allowed to use any hacking tool or programs. I am only allowed to use the things he taught. And for you to understand, the only thing he taught me for one month is chapters 3 to 5 of this book. Now I know most of you are smarter than me so I will ask you now: **What will you do to hack their database using just a hacker's mindset?**

Maybe some of you will just hire someone who can do the hack so that Mr. K will proceed on teaching you the technicalities and hands-on hacking. Maybe some of you will just use hacking tools and scripts that can help you in hacking the database. Maybe some of you will be angry, tell Mr. K that it is impossible and mark him as fake hacker. Well, all of those things crossed my mind. However, I don't want to be controlled by my emotions so I started to think while biking around the

Intramuros by 5:00am in the morning.

For you who don't know what Intramuros is, it's a wonderful place located in Manila, Philippines that is also called "*Walled City*" because it is surrounded by huge walls used in past wars. My college and dormitory was located inside Intramuros but my permanent address that time was too far from this place. I lived there alone, away from my parents just for me to feel comfortable in my studies. The surroundings there at 5:00am in the morning is very peaceful. I biked around the Intramuros every morning like I am the king of the road because only a few vehicles are entering that place by 5:00am to 6:00am.

Whenever I ride my bike, I feel like the air is embracing me tightly. It was peaceful. It makes me feel that I can think of anything clearly and solve any problems I have. My realization in this moment is very clear. I never expected that I'll realize something very important that will solve my problem.

I realized the phrase "**You Can Achieve Anything**" from his teachings back then. I was wrong of thinking about this situation as impossible. I don't know how can I hack it for now, but I will make a way to hack it. Most hackers will think it is very hard and impossible to do it in three days, that's why most of them failed already by giving up. I only have more or less 66 hours since that realization because it's 6am already and that is the first day of the challenge.

6.2 STEP 1: Choosing a Valuable Target

Now I have to choose a valuable target. The first thing I did is to search in the Google about their company. I have to **Dig Deeper** like what he is always teaching me to gain an

advantage. I have to know what or who can be a valuable target that will give me an access to the database. I need to find a target that once I exploit will give me an access to the database.

The first valuable target that came into my mind was the employees of the company. Their emails were posted on their website and their full name. Therefore, I can search them in Facebook or LinkedIn to dig more about their personal life, what they like and what they don't. Then, eventually, I will find a vulnerability in their emotions that will let me access their database.

The second target is Mr. K. Once I gain control of his phone, I can text their employees to just listen to what I want like a boss because he is the owner of that startup. Well, there are so many ways to exploit Mr. K just to access their database so I picked him as one of my valuable targets. Once I exploit him, exploiting the employees can be much easier.

Third target is their website. I am sure that it is connected to their database. If I play with it in a matter of long hours, then maybe I can find something. The problem here is that I am not allowed to use any tools, scripts or any kind of hacking tools, just my hacker's mindset. Well, cross fingers I hope I can exploit it.

All in all, my targets are three, the employees, the owner (Mr. K) and the website. The valuable targets can be changed in the middle of the hacking phase since we can discover a much more valuable target. However, as of the moment, I only see these three valuable targets as my top priority to study for me to discover useful information that can help in exploiting the database.

The first step was done in just a minute and I have to proceed this time with the study about the targets. I will do that step after my class in the afternoon. Well, I am still a college student this time, so I have to go study and act like a normal student.

6.3 STEP 2: Study the Details About the Target

It's 3:00pm in the afternoon and my class was done. I have to go back really fast to my dorm room to start the Step 2 which is studying the details about the targets. This step is the most time consuming of all the steps we have because this is the most important, without these you cannot be successful in Step 3 and Step 4. This time, I have approximately 57 hours to finish the challenge.

Do you know what I thinking about this time? I'm walking back to my dorm while talking to myself in my mind like this: *"Am I a moron to do the challenge? Is it really possible? What if I can't find anything in this step? What if I fail? Hacking without technical things is very ridiculous! Maybe he is a fake! No! I need to do this and prove to him that I can hack it! Well, it's so easy! very very easy. Wait, am I lying to myself? No!, It's true! It's EASY, EASY, EASY! After all, he said to me that this is the easiest test he'll give. Oh, I'm getting crazy. My mind is exploding. I need to calm. I need to be at peace."* Are you getting crazy too by reading what I'm thinking that time? Well, get used to it because I'm kind of person who analyze things by talking, arguing, and asking myself.

Well, talking to yourself can be an advantage to you to become more of an **OBSERVANT**. You can think of the consequences

very clear. In that case, you can be able to make decisions for the improvement of the situation. You can be on the right path by talking to yourself so don't be afraid in doing that thing, it doesn't make you crazy, it makes you a well decisive man.

My decision is to call my partners in crime, Stacey. When I was a kid, she used to be my partner in solving mysteries in our schools, investigating simple crimes in our area and doing adventurous things that a kid may do. It makes me at peace and happy when I am talking to her. Fortunately, her college is just inside the Intramuros too, so I can talk to her personally about what's happening to me. She was my first and one and only partner in crime who is very smart that just by knowing things around, she can formulate the best strategy to solve the problem. She's not only smart, but also beautiful, and that's how bad-ass she is.

We met above the walls of Intramuros. It's a windy day and talking to her about the past and what's going on to me is very relieving. While enjoying the afternoon with her, she realized and told me to just formulate things like how I usually do back when we were in high school. I use fear, rewards, reciprocation, revenge, likability and every matter that can influence people to do something I want without them knowing that I am the one above who controls them. However, most of you are thinking that these kinds of ability are evil, but believe it or not, we use this thing for the betterment of our surroundings.

Psychologists use this technique to medicate their patient. Lawyers use this technique to persuade the people that what they are saying is the truth. The government use this technique sometimes by injecting fear to the people just for them to obey to the laws and have a peace and order. The same story goes for me; I use that ability of mine to help people around me.

Stacey describes me as a chess player. The board is the world, my chess pieces are the humans and the enemy player and his chess pieces are the odds that can come against my ability to control the game. However, because of my proper creation of strategy, I can control the game. Knowing more about the details of the odds that is stopping me can increase the chance of me being in control. And you all know that hacking is a game of who is in control.

So there it is. I can formulate a better strategy if I can know more about the odds that stopping me. In my case this time, the one that stopping me is myself. I keep on doubting myself whether I can do this or not. Sometimes the greatest enemy you have to encounter is yourself. If you encounter all of your negativity and change it into a positive one, then you can be in control.

I told her about the teachings of Mr. K about the "You Can Achieve Anything" principle. I told her that if you want to be something in this world then you can be that one. If you don't want to be that something, then you won't become that one. It is all in your mind and if you keep telling your mind that you can achieve that impossible thing then probably you can have it. Then she said "You already have answers to your problem", and she added "The answer is within you, but your negative self is stopping you from finding it."

After a long talk with her, I managed to be back to my true self again. I managed to bring back the Alexis that makes the impossible thing a possible one. I managed to get rid of my negativity. Then, I went to my room and fix the things on the table to begin the most time consuming step in hacking which is gathering information or in layman's term, studying the details

about the targets.

The first target to dig in is the workers of that startup company. All of their names are on their website so I search them one by one in www.pipl.com which is the most comprehensive people search engine on the web. It will give you all of the data they put in the Internet, like videos in Youtube, pictures in different websites or even their personal social media account links.

Some of you will think that I am cheating because I am using a tool. Well, it's not a hacking tool because it is primarily made and used by businesses to research about their candidate employees for this tool can show if they have a criminal record or any other interesting information. So in my mind I was saying, *"My conscience is clear! I am not cheating"*.

I started to insert the names of the employees. I got interested with a guy named Carlos, 38 years old, which is the technology head of the startup. He has a multiple Facebook accounts. When I checked the photos of the first account, I saw a picture of him with a girl named Christine kissing him in his cheeks in a night club. Christine was also with him in out of town tours like Boracay Island and so on, maybe it's his wife. However, in the second account, there is another photo I saw of him posted by a woman named Mary. In that photo, Mary is kissing him lips to lips in a wedding ceremony and that photo is in the same month and year from the photo in his first account. Obviously, these are two different girls so I was thinking that there is something fishy going on.

I created a new Facebook account with a beautiful woman in the profile picture. I added several accounts to make this account credible. In just a minute there are so many guys who want to add my account so I accepted them to add them in my friend list in this account. Then I sent a friend request to Carlos'

Facebook account.

I was surprised when after just a minute, Carlos accepted my friend request. Then, that's not the end of the story. He messaged me in my female Facebook account asking me if I have a boyfriend. Then I told him using the female account that I don't have one yet. I was shocked in his reply, he said, "I can be your boyfriend".

This is the power of impersonating someone using a Facebook account. Carlos was so pumped up to be my boyfriend, but he doesn't know that the one who's controlling the female Facebook account he's chatting with is a BOY (me). Maybe, Christine is not the only girl he's been with while being married to Mary. So I have to check for myself what the truth is.

I went to Carlos' Facebook account (*his account that he is using in connecting to Christine*) using my female Facebook account. Since he is my Facebook friend now, I can see a lot of deeper things in his wall. I saw a lot of wild pictures of him with Christine and a love status that they will love each other forever and so on. That's very ridiculous since he is married.

In my mind, I was thinking that Carlos is married to Mary but going out wild with Christine. So because I was curious, I input the full name of Mary and I saw a lot of terrible things. Mary thinks she is happily married to an honest man. She posted a lot of pictures with her husband, Carlos, of their beautiful and lovely moments especially their wedding. The photo I've seen in Carlos' second Facebook profile from Mary's post is a throwback picture of their wedding because it's their wedding anniversary. However, in the other account of Carlos, he is posting a lot of wild pictures with Christine.

What I am thinking about this happening was confirmed. Carlos

has a deep relationship with Christine while being married to Mary. And let's add the fact that Christine is not the only "other woman" of Carlos because he's also hitting on my female Facebook account (*wanting to be the boyfriend of my female Facebook account*) which is so ridiculous. Maybe Carlos' account for Christine blocked Mary's account to become invisible to Mary, ridiculous isn't it? That's why I didn't mention the real name of Mr. K in this book because you'll find out who is Carlos and as you can see, I don't want to degrade and humiliate people.

I imagined if Mary was Stacey, who married a playboy guy like Carlos then probably will end up being hurt so much. I treated Stacey as my sister and I don't want this kind of cheating happen to her. This time, as a mature man, I am starting to realize that what I did in high school (having so many girlfriends at the same time) is somewhat similar to what Carlos did to Mary and I feel very bad about myself. Maybe, that's my vulnerability that time, but this time when I wrote this book, I already fixed that vulnerability of mine.

However, I don't have time to waste so I have to set aside my emotion this time and become rational to finish this step already. I tried to research and dig more about the other employees of the company and I come up with ordinary things like they like Harry Potter movies, they are addicted to some television drama, and other ordinary vulnerability in emotion. Always remember that the things you posted in internet whether you like or dislike it can be used against you and it can be your greatest vulnerability. Those things you posted can be used to exploit you and gain control over you so better not to post too much in your social media because it is not your responsibility to post, you are just giving the hackers a way to find more how to hack you.

Now I have to proceed to the next target which is Mr. K. Since I've been with him frequently then definitely I can find something that can allow me to exploit him. After all, from his teachings he is always telling me that, "**There is NO 100% Secure in Cyberspace and Meatspace**" so probably I can find something. I know some of the characteristics of Mr. K, his class schedule, his family, his other jobs, other friends and many more so I am thinking what I have to know about him more.

Mr. K is a very charismatic person that once he starts to talk, everyone will start to listen. He is also very knowledgeable in technology, especially in security. He is slightly arrogant and over-confident, but he is friendly and kind to everyone, especially to beautiful girls. He is pertaining himself to be in some kind of a hacker group, but he didn't say too much detail. He is also teaching hands-on hacking to his class when there's extra time and when there is a chance to relate his topic into hacking for he believes that everyone must know how to hack and secure themselves just like everyone must know how to punch, kick and defend themselves from the bad people.

He also believes that the greatest advantage of the hacker is **SELF-STUDY**. They do not depend on what the teacher is teaching. Especially in hacking, there are only few colleges that teach ethical hacking in the world because our traditional system still does not accept it. That's why all of the hackers in this generation must study on their own. Fortunately, we have the **internet** where we can find all of the things we have to learn in ethical hacking. Mr. K said that he is a product of self-study and that's what makes him one of the greatest security professional in the industry.

Enough about Mr. K I have to move on to the website. Their website tells everything about what company they are and what they offer. The good thing here is there are names of the

employees here and the email where I can contact them. However, the only name and email I picked was Carlos' since he is my point of interest in this situation.

It's already 7:30pm and I have to take my dinner before 10pm came because 10pm is the curfew of our dormitory. I got out of my room and went to the nearest eatery I know. The night was cold and windy and it was very peaceful. I ate so much for this night because it is a big night for me since I will have to finish Step 3 which is the creation of strategy and will have to do Step 4 tomorrow which is the execution.

6.4 STEP 3: Creation of Possible Methods

It's 8:30pm now and the only time left for me is 51 hours and 30 minutes. I am now in my room to create possible methods to hack the database of their company. On my table, I ready have two big bottles of water. It is because when you are thinking too much and you feel like drowned with information in your head drinking water can help you refresh your mind. Well, I am not taking up medicine but I just feel comfortable doing that for it boost my productivity.

The first thing that comes in my mind is the power of a letter with a signature. When someone receives a letter from a sender with a signature, they always believe that the person who signed that letter is the real one who created the letter. My question is, what if the sender they know is not the one who really created that letter? What if someone just copied the signature of the sender so that you will believe that the letter was created by that sender? This makes sense to me; all I have to do now is to have a copy of Mr. K's signature to have that kind of power to become that person. However, I know it's

wrong because we have laws about signatures so if you are a law enforcement who's reading this, go read the next chapter and you'll know why you can't put me in jail.

Here is my **first method**:

- I will make an excuse letter and the name there will be blank.
- I will talk to one of my friends in his class to act like they will be absent in the next class and give the excuse letter as his excuse letter.
- Of course, Mr. K will sign the excuse letter.
- After that, I will scan the excuse letter and crop his signature.
- I will make a letter to the programmer of Mr. K's company that Mr. K is giving me permission to customize their website into a more secure one.
- To make my letter credible, I will put his name there and of course, signature.
- In the letter, the programmer will have to give me the credentials for me to access their database and my job is finished.

One of the vulnerabilities of Mr. K is he like beautiful girls so much. He spends time talking to hot girls in our campus or even eat with them if there's time. If I can use a girl in the second method then probably he'll be in my control. What I have to think right now is how I will use that vulnerability to my advantage.

Here is my **second method** if the first method fails:

- Go talk to my girl friend in his class to borrow Mr. K's phone to act that she just want to text her dad to pick her up after the class because she is not very well and doesn't have a load.

- I will give to that friend the number of the programmer in Mr. K's company and the message she has to text in Mr. K's phone containing, "Hey, this is Mr. K, give me the credentials in our database. A.S.A.P. or else you'll be fired. Send it to (insert my number) and not here. Do not reply to this message."
- After that friend go to Mr. K, borrow his phone, and send the message, she must delete her text in the sent messages.
- Then, after a few minutes, the credentials will be sent to my phone and it's game over, I win.

They say that you have to save the best for last. One of the great vulnerabilities I found in the employee is the story of Carlos. Since I know his dirty little secret I have the power over him by using the word "FEAR". I can control him by just saying the magic words and I know you know it. I don't really want to do this thing because it's too personal that's why I made this my last option.

Here is the **third method** if the first and second didn't work out:

- Gather all the evidence that will prove that Carlos has a deep relationship with Christine while being married to Mary.
- Email Carlos that if he didn't give the correct credentials in their database, then all of the evidence that he is cheating on his wife will be exposed to: first, to his own wife and second, to all of the internet users around the world including his family, co-worker, friends and many more.
- To make sure that he will read the message in his email I will call him from his phone using a payphone to tell him this thing, "You have 1 hour to check your email and read my message. If the time is out and you didn't

give what I want, then your dirty secrets with Christine will be exposed to the whole world, including your wife.” Then I will put down the phone immediately.

- Since Carlos is the head of the technology in that company, I assume he can give me the credentials I want to be in their database.

It took me almost 3 hours to clean the details of the strategy I will do for the second day. All of the things I need are ready for tomorrow. All I have to do now is to rest and hope that all of the things I plan will go in order. It's almost 12 midnight when I sleep so definitely I only have 48 hours to finish the game I started.

6.5 STEP 4: Execution

During the second day, I sit-in (*attend the class even though you're not in the class list*) on Mr. K's class. I talked to Ben, who is sitting in the back, about my plan which is the first method. I said to him, “Put your name here in the letter and act like you will absent next meeting. Then you will give this excuse letter to Mr. K. I'll give you 100 pesos if you did this perfectly.” Ben is a big guy and he became my classmate in some minor subjects like English and Filipino class and he is also my friend, I assume. Ben started to write his name in the letter.

When Mr. K came in the classroom, he went to Mr. K in front and give his excuse letter. Well, unexpectedly there was something wrong. Mr. K told him this, “Didn't you forget that your report is next meeting? Choose, absent next meeting and report now or you'll just be present next meeting and you'll report next meeting?”. Unfortunately, due to unpreparedness of Ben, he

chose to be present next meeting so he can report next meeting and not this day. So Mr. K didn't sign the excuse letter and Ben came back to his seat.

I was so disappointed and this is also the reason why you can't jail me in copying a signature for it is not successfully done but I attempted. I didn't see it will come that way. I have to move on very fast so I can proceed to the second method. I have to find a beautiful girl in the class and it can help if she had already become my classmate in other subjects. I started to look at every student in the class.

Then, I found Valerie! She became my classmate in one of my major subjects. I remembered that I ate breakfast with her in canteen that time because we are so early for our next class. So maybe, she will still remember me even if it's 6 months ago. I started to sit beside her and as usual, like the old Valerie, she doesn't like to listen to the student who reports like just reading what is on the PowerPoint presentation. This is my chance to explain to her my second method.

A good thing about Valerie is she knows that I'm into hacking and she's very supportive about that. She categorized my hobby as cool and mysterious. So I told her what is really going on between Mr. K and me and explained to her how she can help me in my second method. She was laughing and said, "So I will be your hacking partner?" then she quite raise her hands and form a quotation in her fingers and said, "In this hacking operation?". She is smiling and said this is so cool. She said that she feels like she's a spy.

For me, Mr. K will be out of control if Valerie approaches her. It is because Valerie is a beautiful woman that every guy will dream of; but not me. Why not me? Because Ana (my first love) is much more beautiful than Valerie inside and out and let's add

the fact that Ana is much more intelligent than Valerie, enough said. So here it is. We have to hack Mr. K immediately.

When the class was finished, Valerie quickly came near to Mr. K and started to make a cute puppy face. I am just watching them from the back seat of the class and I can't hear anything from them for it is too noisy. Mr. K's expression was very surprised and happy. I can see the two of them enjoying the talk and I'm impressed that Valerie is so confident in doing the job. That time, I feel that she really has a future in becoming a spy, I think.

After that, Mr. K started to look at me. He caught me looking at them. I can feel that Mr. K is now becoming suspicious, so I just look at the other side of the class. Then Valerie came to me and said, "The conversation is good. Until the time when I want to borrow his phone, he asked if it's your command. I told him it wasn't your command. Then he said that he passed a load to you, so I must go to you instead to do my favor". In my mind I was saying, "*Very clever Mr. K, very clever*". I was disappointed that my second method failed.

Valerie feels so sorry about what happened so I just moved on. We ate lunch together and part ways after since she has another class and I don't have yet. I went to SM Manila's Starbucks and open my laptop there and of course, I used my own pocket Wi-Fi even if SM Manila has free Wi-Fi for using a public Wi-Fi is so insecure. I started emailing Carlos.

First, I created a dummy email so that he won't know who I am. I told him in the email, "Give me all of the credentials I need to access your database. Or else your dirty little secrets with Christine and your disgusting chats with Nelly (The name of the female Facebook account I created) will be exposed to your wife, all of your relatives, friends and all of the internet users".

Then I went to payphone and call his phone. I told him, "Open your email. Find my instructions there and no one will know about your dirty little secrets. You have 1 hour to do that". He shouted into the phone while I am talking, "Who are you!?". I put down the phone and wait if he will take the bait.

While waiting, I am organizing all of the evidence about Carlos' secret such as wild pictures of him with Christine, screenshots of their love statuses and his chat with my female Facebook account he tried to hit. In case he missed the 1 hour deadline, I have no choice but to send it all to her wife and make it trend in different social media. After that, I am still thinking of a fourth method in case this plan didn't work out. It is because it's 30 minutes since I called him but no response.

Fortunately, after 45 minutes, he emailed me in my dummy account. He said, "I will kill you if you didn't comply with our deal. I'm honest. I am going to kill you and your family". Well, he is a coward and it does not sound scary enough. Then I continued reading it and at the bottom of the letter is the link where I can access the database and its username and password. I won.

I immediately changed the password of their database so I am the only one who can access it. I called Mr. K and said this, "I won. I hacked your database. The old username was 'SuperX08' and the old password is 'kangaroo_04081122'. I changed the username into 'iHack' and the password into 'yourDatabase1234567890'. Go, log in using my new credentials for you to see it." He replied, "OK, wait a minute". Then after a few minutes he shouted, "Nice! How did you do that? I hope you didn't use tools for now because if you did this by just using your hacker's mindset then probably we can now proceed to using hacking tools. You know that I want you to learn the technicalities in hacking, but I want you to have a

strong foundation in hacker's mindset first. It is because, again, **you can hack everything by just using your hacker's mindset** and the hacking tools we are using now are just subordinates”.

I told him all of the details from start to bottom from the first method to the last method I used. He was so amazed and he said, “That's what a Black Hat do. However, you are now thinking like a true hacker, but you must be careful with your steps and make sure it is always **ETHICAL**. Do you know that we spend thousands for the security of those things you just hacked? We spend a lot of money and time to make it secure. We even worked with information security firms to make our technology more secured. However, you just hacked it by just using your **hacker's mindset** so still I'm proud of you, but the only thing you fail in this test is to make your hack **ETHICAL** and that's what we have to work on you.”

I started to realize what I've done. I am so lucky to be trained like this. Most of the hackers in this world depend too much in hacking tools and technicalities to hack something. However, I just hacked it with just using my hacker mindset. The importance of having a hacker's mindset was implanted to my brain since this thing happened and of course, to make my steps **ETHICAL**. This scene is like I successfully dropped a bomb to the base of the enemy but still there are few civilians in the area. (The unethical use of signatures and the law about this is the “civilian” here, blackmailing Carlos is the “civilian” here) Well, don't expect that I can grasp the whole idea of being ethical in the first test, but expect that I can grasp the whole idea by applying it in every strategy and test I can have in his training.

Many hackers or wannabe hackers see the power in hacking

tools and technology, but they didn't know that the real power is already in them: their mind. They just have to customize and setup their mind to a hacker's mind so that they can use the real power of hacking. Always remember this: **the power of hacking will not be found in the technology, it will be found in your "mind"**. So my first phase of training which is building the hacker's mindset is the most important phase of our training and without this, I am not a true hacker.

~ Things to Remember

- Being **resourceful** can help you formulate a creative strategy and reconnaissance.
- Knowing the principle of **You Can Achieve Anything** can make you an invincible hacker that can do the impossible things.
- When finding vulnerabilities in your target, always put in your mind that **There is NO 100% Secure in Cyberspace**.
- You can hack anything much easier with just a **hacker's mindset**.
- The power of hacking will not be found in the technology, it will be found in your **"mind"**.
- In every strategy you'll create, make sure that it is **ethical**.

007

HACKING HUMANS

“Companies spend millions of dollars on firewalls, encryption, and secure access devices and it's money wasted because none of these measures address the weakest link in the security chain: the PEOPLE who use, administer, operate and account for computer systems that contain protected information.”

-Kevin Mitnick

7.1 Social Engineering

Social engineering is an act that influences a person to take an action that may or may not be in their best interest. If you want an administrator to give you a piece of valuable information such as password and username then you can do it without him knowing. If you want your boss to become kind to you and do whatever you say then you can do it without him knowing. If you want to gain control of everything in your interest, then you can do it without everyone knowing. That is the power of social engineering.

I used social engineering when I want to hack the Gmail account and any other social media accounts connected to the Gmail of my cousin, Joseph, for fun. Since I know the Facebook password of my brother, I used it to talk to Joseph and here is our conversation:

(Again, I am the one who is using my brother's account. We just didn't give here in the conversation the real credentials such as email for the safety of my cousin)

Brother: Hello Joseph! I want to send a valuable PDF to you in your email. May I know what's your email?

Joseph: Hi! Nice! What kind of valuable information is that? Send it here: enteremailhere@gmail.com

Brother: Wow, nice email. When did you create that email? It seems it is so old. Mine was just created a year ago. The PDF I want to give you is an eBook that you are waiting for all of your life.

Joseph: Yeah, it is too old. I created that in summer 3 years ago. Wait, what's the title of that e-book? I'm kinda interested.

Brother: Just check your email now. Did you see it?

Joseph: Yes! Thank you!

Brother: May I know your other frequent emailed contacts? I want to share that PDF with them.

Joseph: numberone@gmail.com, numbertwo@gmail.com, numberthree@gmail.com, numberfour@gmail.com and numberfive@gmail.com. I am sure they will like what you've sent to me.

Brother: Of course, they will. Thank you!

Now, I know some of you are wondering, "Where is the hacking there?". I will show you the hack there:

Step 1: Go to www.gmail.com

Step 2: If you are logged in then sign it out. Then click the Add an account button and then "Need Help" button.

Step 3: Click the "I don't know the password" and enter the email address of your target. Then, click "Continue".

Step 4: If it prompts you to enter the last password you remember then just click the button "I don't know".

Step 5: If it prompts you to use your phone to access your phone just click the button "I can't access my phone".

Step 6: If it prompts you to get a verification code via a text message, then just click the button "I can't access my phone".

Step 7: If it prompts you to confirm your access through your recovery email address, then just click "Verify your identity" which is in color blue.

Step 8: Gmail will prompt you to enter another email where they can contact you for the new password. You can enter any existing email you want that you have access. After that click "Continue".

Step 9: It will prompt you to enter the exact date when was the last time you open your Gmail account and when did you created your Gmail account. In my case here, Joseph just said to me flawlessly that he created his Gmail account 3 years ago in summer (*which means April or May*). And by telling him to open his account that time, I can have the exact date of when was the last time he opened his Gmail account. After all of these, just click "Continue".

Step 10: It will prompt you to give at least four frequently emailed contacts and a recovery email you remember. In this case, you can skip the recovery email part and just fill up the frequently emailed contacts. In hacking Joseph's account, I managed him to give me not just four, but five emails he frequently contact because he believed that I will pass the PDF I gave him to those emails. After all of that just click "Continue".

Step 11: After all of those things, Gmail will tell you to open the email you use in Step 8 to access the reset password link. Then in my case, I just hacked Joseph's Gmail account by just interacting with him and using these steps. I hacked not just his Gmail account, but also the Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram that is connected to his Gmail account.

(By the time I wrote this book, this step worked. However, Google may change their security in Gmail as the time goes by.)

That's how powerful social engineering is in hacking. With just a simple magic word you can hack a lot of accounts. However, social engineering is not just to harm people. It can also be used in a much different way.

Social engineering has been used by psychologists to know more about their patients and to medicate them. It is also used by lawyers to persuade the judge that what they are saying is the truth. It is also being used by the government by injecting fear to the people for them to obey the laws and have a peace and order. Mostly all of us used this kind of hack without us knowing and today, you must know how to use it and apply it in hacking.

This kind of power is just under the hacker's mindset. It has a power to influence the target to do something for you even if it doesn't suit their interest and without them knowing. Imagine if you can control your target and you can make them do whatever you want, isn't it powerful? This thing is one of the things I treasured in Mr. K's teachings.

Social engineering is less technical so Mr. K taught me this before proceeding to the technical. Everyone who's reading this book can understand the terminologies which will be used here. Also the process, you can do it without much technicality in your mind so whether you are a businessman, a teacher, a policeman, a student, a housewife, architect, or whatever profession you are in, you can understand what social engineering is.

7.2 Social Engineering Methods

1.) Tailgating

This method is effective for those who have a security gate that doesn't have a guard and the only thing you need is an ID to enter. That ID will be scanned by the gate system and the door will open. In this case, tailgating from the word tail, you have to tail an employee or a person that has an access and can open the door. Then you just have to be behind that target and quickly enter into the facility with the target in front of you.

Some of the beautiful women have an advantage in this situation. Why? Because some of the employees who's a gentleman do terrible things in this scenario. Gentlemen, amazingly, use their ID and let the beautiful lady enter first in most situations. So if you are a beautiful hacker then this method must be a gift to you.

This method is commonly used to bypass security gates in your target. You can do this with interaction with the person in front of you. For example, have some small talk about the weather while entering the security gate. However, you can also do this without interaction and purely stealthy behind the person that have access.

2.) Shoulder Surfing

This method is the most favorite of younger generations today. It is because by just watching over the victim's shoulder what they are typing, especially if they are typing their password slowly (which is a doing of some older generations today), then

definitely you can open their account.

You can do this method by just purely watching what the victim is typing. However, if the victim is fast in typing, then probably you must use some tools like a video camera in your phone. So that, you can play the video later in slow motion to see what does the victim types. Pretty easy, right?

3.) Rewards

Do you ever see a wanted person in some posts and have a reward maybe a hundred thousand if you have information that can lead them to that person? Well, what if the reward you see is millions? Or billions? Is your mind whispering to you to find that person? Will you move to find that person? Maybe some of you will.

The reward is the primary motivation. Motivation makes a person move. And by moving, they can do something. In short, the reward can also influence people to do something for you.

If a web administrator in xyz company is addicted to strawberries, then you can bribe him with strawberries to do something for you. You can offer him a reward if you want something like confidential data on the company's website. A reward like a basket of strawberries can push him to move because he wants to get the reward. You just controlled him.

4.) Disgruntled Employees

Disgruntled employee means an employee that has a grunt with dissatisfaction and anger with the previous company they worked in. Maybe their boss swipes all of their best ideas, but

didn't give them credit? Maybe the company didn't treat them well? Whatever the reason why they are dissatisfied and angry, this employee is a hacker's treasure.

For example, there is a web developer who worked on xyz company but was terminated because of his incompetence. This web developer is now filled with anger and dissatisfaction to his previous company because of how they treated him. Now, you can take advantage of it by talking with this web developer. Some bad hackers may use this web developer for revenge so this web developer will help you with the information you needed to hack the target company. However, good hackers use this also and they will say to the web developer that this is for revenge just for him to spill information, but the true motive of the good hacker here is just to make the target company more secure.

This is a treasure for you'll never know that maybe some of this disgruntled employees know the password in the target companies' computers. These previous employees can give you an idea how you will hack their system. This employee has been there inside the company you want to hack so they can give you a lot of information better than the information a tool can give you. They can also reveal a secret code of employees so that if you do social engineering, you can impersonate as an employee also because you know how their system of communication or code works.

5.) Social Media

Do you have stalkers in Facebook or Twitter? Maybe that guy or girl who likes every picture of yours? Or that person who silently stalks your profile without you knowing? Well, all of those people can be a stalker and a social engineer who wants to dig

deeper about you so that they will know your vulnerability.

Every time you post on social media about yourself or something else, it will reflect in your personality. If you post a picture of chocolate cakes with a heart as a caption, then definitely that person likes that kind of food. If someone is always posting a status about break-up quotes, then definitely there is something going on about their relationship with their lovers and you can dig more to know the details. You can picture the details of their lives or whatever they like in social media like Facebook and Twitter that's why for hackers, social media is a treasure for hackers because it easily helps to get their job done.

6.) Dumpster Diving

This is one of the common problems of the companies today. This is the process of looking in the trash for sensitive information such as passwords, emails, secret strategies and many more that has not been properly disposed.

Hacker's another treasure is trash. You've read it right, trash. For some people it is only trash, but for hackers, it is a treasure. It is because some of the valuable information of their target company may be inside that trash like documents for their secret strategies, passwords, and any valuable information that can help them hack the target company.

7.) Company Tour

Another hacker's treasure is the company tour. They can see the inside facility of their target company. They can see what

routers, operating systems, and any other technologies they are using inside the company. Knowing the inside of the company can also help you determine how you will hack the company.

This also helps a social engineer to know how he will impersonate as an employee or as a simple technician in the company. For in this tour, he will see and hear how the company works, where the CCTV cameras are, what time is their lunch break, and many other routines that can help him become one of the employees. Lastly, the hacker can capture the image of the employee's ID so that he can be really one of them and he can have an employee to dig in for vulnerabilities that, again, can lead him to hack the target company.

7.3 Psychological Factors

1.) Fear

In the previous chapter, I mentioned that I tested a company's security with permission. The first thing I did was social engineering. After a long research about the company and its employees, I made a strategy that can lead me into hacking their data. What I need for the operation is just a telephone and a great confidence.

I started to contact the IT guy who, according to my research, have many dependents. He is the only man that has work in his family so his family needs him very bad. So what if he was terminated? Maybe, being terminated is his **FEAR** for he needs his job badly.

So what I did, in the telephone was I acted and introduced

myself as the CEO of that company and there is some problem in my company account so he must fix it and give me another username and password or else, I'll fire him. When he heard the word "fire", he became quick in doing things hearing him typing very fast and always saying this line, "Wait sir! Wait sir! I can fix it! Wait! I'll give you a new username and password!". Then I just pushed him to give me an access to the CEO's company account. By doing that, you knew what happened. By having the CEO's account, I can have and do whatever I want with their data.

Fear is a big force that pushes many of us to do something we never intend to do. Some of the people today do terrible things like stealing and killing for the fear that their family will starve to death. Some of them have fear to fail an exam so they cheated no matter what it takes. Some of them have fear of losing someone they really love so they will do anything that love one will say. Some of them are being blackmailed and being told to do the things they never intend to do.

2.) **Revenge**

If someone wants revenge in a company or in any of your target then that someone can be a lot of help to you. That someone will do anything just to harm the target. You can use that advantage for someone that can spill all of the information about that company. Then, your hack will be much easier because the more information you can have, the more chance you can hack the target much easier.

This psychological factor is connected to what we called "Disgruntled Employee" that hackers see as a treasure. Because of their revenge, even if what you are asking is confidential information then there's a huge chance that he will

give it to you just to harm the company. However, as a White Hat, always remember that you are using this kind of advantage to make the company more secure and not the other way around.

Do you know Joker? The mortal enemy of Batman? If Joker wants to kill a person then he'll use a person that seeks revenge. He will just annoy the person or convince him/her to seek revenge on that person Joker wants to kill. Then, later on, the person he annoyed already killed that person. He just killed someone with clean hands because somebody has to do the job for him. The person who did the job of killing was controlled by the so called "revenge".

3.) Reciprocation

You can use this psychological factor in the people that owe you or anyone that has an obligation to repay you for something good you did to them. Most of the people tend to do everything to the people they owe. For example, if someone saves your life, will you do anything for him? Maybe you will for you owe them your life.

What if someone gave you a work in a major company? Will you give that someone an access to that major company? Some of you will for you owe that very kind person and you believe that person won't do anything bad to that major company. Well, if that someone you owe is a Black Hat hacker then it's a terrible thing, but if it's a White Hat hacker then it is also a terrible thing that will turn into a good thing because White Hat hackers tend to fix all of the vulnerabilities in cyberspace.

4.) Good Samaritan

Have you ever met a person that is so kind? Because of his kindness, you can't say 'NO' to him? Well, there are a lot of people that are so kind to you that you can't take it to see them suffer or see them in a bad situation so you will help. Your conscience is eating you up for this kind person is very nice to you.

This is somehow connected to reciprocation but this is more focused on being nice and kind to the target. The person you want to hack will mostly say yes to your request for again, you are kind and nice to them. Many people fall for this trap for most of the people in this world base their judgment on the person by what they see and not by what they cannot see.

5.) Likable

If the campus crush went to you and asked for a favor, would you do the favor? Many of the people will do the favor because sometimes they are in love with that person or they like that person too much. The saying "Love is blind" goes true in this psychological factor. Love can make you blind because there is a tendency that you will do any favor that person will ask you even if it is not your intention to do it. And yes, some hackers use this kind of factor to hack someone or to control someone.

Likable person are those who are popular, or simply gorgeous/handsome. I remembered when I created a fake Facebook account with a girl name and with a profile picture of a beautiful woman. In just one day, I received a thousand of friend requests. And every man I chatted said that they'll do anything I ask them like giving me confidential information in

their company and more that I can use in my hacks. You can prettily ask anything to the person who likes you too much or simply make yourself a likable person for you to control anyone.

7.4 Countermeasures

1.) Applicant Background Check

Have a deep background check in each applicant who wants to join your company. You'll never know, maybe they are the wanted hacker the police are chasing. It can also be a person that came from your competitor so in order to be clear if which side this applicant is, you must do this background check. It is better to have a reconnaissance or an investigation team in your company to do this job properly for this can be the number one flaw of one company.

2.) Physical Security (Dumps)

Your company must establish a disposal policy where all paper, including printouts, is shredded in a cross-out shredder before being recycled. All storage media must be erased and all staff must be educated about the danger of untracked trash.

3.) Have a Clear Company Policy

To avoid the impersonation and any other social engineering tactics in your company, you must have clear company policy of what will be the code if someone calls and so on. Have a unique policy so that it will be hard for a hacker to create a

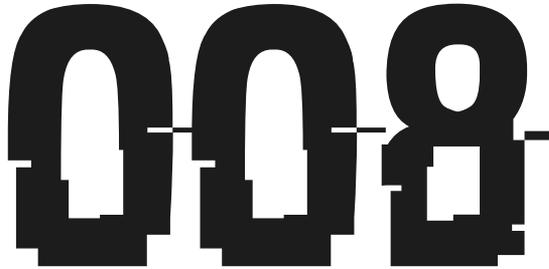
social engineering strategy for your company.

4.) Education About Cyber Security

All of the people must be aware of these kinds of tricks for them to be more secure. Raising cyber security awareness can lessen the increasing number of hacking victims around the world so help us raise cyber security awareness by sharing the ideas this book have.

~ Things to Remember

- Social engineering is under the scope of the hacker's mindset.
- By just using social engineering, you can control everything around you.
- You can use social engineering not just in hacking, but also to keep a harmonious relationship with your love ones.
- Social engineering was used also by professionals.
- Humans are the **weakest link** in the cyberspace that we must secure first.



THE BEGINNING

"More revelations, in front of me. However, this is only the beginning and the journey is just about to start."

8.1 Ethical Training

Batman is a superhero most of us knew. As you observed in his every fight, he doesn't kill. Even if he has a chance to kill Joker (his mortal enemy and a criminal), he still managed not to kill him. It is because Batman thinks that it is not ethical to kill. Batman was trained not to kill when he's just starting. He was trained to be ethical before he was trained in combat and weapons.

This is the same story with the policemen (at least in the Philippines). All of them **MUST** be trained ethically and theoretically on what kind of situation they will have to use their gun, what they must think while handling the gun and whom they will shoot it before they can handle and use the gun practically. All of them must have undergone a massive theoretical training to condition their mind before handling any kinds of weapon. It is because who knows, maybe some of them don't really understand where to use it so they'll just use it to scare people which is unethical. Again, they must be trained first to be ethical before handling a weapon.

All of these stories are the same with hacking. You have to know what is the ethical way of becoming a hacker before you can use weapons in hacking. That's why before I introduced you to the greatest weapon in hacking which is a hacker's mindset, I already introduced to you that all of this must be used ethically. You can be superhero and make a difference in this world without breaking the law. And the greatest thing about it is you can use **hacking** to make that possible.

In every step you will make to hack something and someone make sure that you have **permission** from the owner of the

system you are hacking. It is good to have a pre-engagement to the owner about the hack that you will do. Your reasons must be for intellectual challenge or rewards, but whatever it is, talk to the owner about the scope of the hack you will do because through this you'll know the limits of your operation. This is a good start to make the system of your targets more secure because after you hack their system, you must give them the solution on how to fix that hole in their system.

In this book, we are encouraging you to become one of the superhero of this modern society. The modern defender of the digital world lies within you. The future generation is hoping for you to make our cyberspace more developed and secured. You, the one reading this book, are one of the only hope of the digital world to depopulate the Black Hats or the bad hackers in cyberspace by making our cyberspace more secure.

As the time goes by, Mr. K trained me after that first test to be ethical. He gave me more tests and the challenge here is not how I can hack the system, but how I can make it ethical. That's why now all of the steps I am using in my journey such as the Hacker Games Championship, my cyber security business and Mapuan Files issue were purely ethical and no person nor system has been harmed.

8.2 Application of Hacker's Mindset

Knowledge is useless if you don't know how to apply it in the real world. Now that you know all of these things, start creating strategies on how you can hack a system without using too much technology. It is because the real meat of this book is for you to become a real hacker who is powerful even if

technology goes down in this world. Always remember that technology is just a subordinate in hacking and the real power of hacking lies on your mind, the hacker's mindset.

Some of them may say that what I've done in my past hacks is just social engineering. Social engineering is all about hacking the humans. However, social engineering is just one of the capabilities of a hacker's mindset. Some of the capabilities of a hacker's mindset are creating unconventional strategies that can lead you to a more successful hacks, utilizing all of the things you have and turn it into a powerful hacking weapon. These are the reasons why you must not belittle the hacker's mindset because it has the greatest capability that any tool can't have.

Now think of a company or a **target** you want to hack. Is it a big corporation? Is it a small institution? Is it your friend's account? Whatever it is, you must first talk to the owner of that system so that you won't be in jail if you already hack their system. Evaluate and talk to the target about the limits of the hacks because most of the companies wouldn't want their websites down for their operations online will be stopped.

Now that you have a permit and a target you now have to do a massive **information gathering** about the targets. Utilize all of the things you have so that you can extract more information about the target. The more information, the more chances you can see a vulnerability in their system. Sometimes, the passwords or any confidential information is right here in this step. So now, start being a deep researcher because the more you dig deeper, the more you can find valuable information.

After that, create an **unconventional strategy** that can lead you in hacking the target. Think of the vulnerabilities of each target and think of any possible method to hack the target.

Here, you must think out of the box and you must create the smartest way to hack the target. Lastly, the ways you will formulate in this step must be ethical. So now, start creating more strategies on how you can hack a certain target because it will let you look what your situation is and how possible it is to achieve an impossible thing. Always remember that hacking is also about the creation of strategies.

Finally, we have the **execution** where you will execute the plans you've made from the most possible to the least possible. This is for you to save time and of course you must be flexible because most of the time, there will be some changes in your methods.

In your everyday life, you can practice these skills by just researching about the target and making a strategy on how you can hack that target even if you won't really hack them. It is just for you to test yourself in researching and being a strategist. For example, I sometimes talk about deep topics with my friends (this is the research part) then later on, in my mind I am creating the methods on how I can hack their Facebook accounts; but I won't hack their Facebook accounts. Again, it is just for you to test yourself how good you are in using your hacker's mindset.

8.3 Technical Hacking

To be honest, this book is not intended to teach you the details about technical hacking. It is because you must understand programming, networks, Linux, and some computer fundamentals first before you can fully understand technical hacking. Technical hacking will be in my next book wherein I

will teach you the things you need to know first before jumping in to technical hacking. This book is primarily focused on developing a hacker's mindset which makes up the 80% of a hacker and technical hacking is only subordinate in hacking which is just 15% that's why I dedicated this whole book in having a hacker's mindset.

Fortunately, I will introduce you to the basic hacks. I will also tell you the countermeasures for you not to become one of their victims.

1.) Phishing

This is the act of sending an email to a victim and falsely claiming to be an established company in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering confidential information such as username and passwords. This email will direct you to a website where you will be asked to log-in or update any personal data such as password, social security, bank account, and credit card numbers. However, the website is fake and will capture all the data you've entered.

Countermeasure:

- Always check the URL of the website you are visiting. Sometimes you can see that the website you are visiting by appearance is really that website for example, gmail.com. However, if you check the URL and turns that it is not gmail.com but gm4il.com, it must be phishing.

2.) Keyloggers

It is a software or a hardware that records the real time activity of a computer user including the keyboard keys they press. It allows not only keyboard strokes to be captured, but also capable of collecting screenshots

from the computer's victim. However, the primary goal of hackers in using this is to collect sensitive information like passwords and username.

Countermeasures:

- Keylogger **detection software** can literally find keyloggers. However, just like common anti-virus software, it only detects recorded and known keylogger software. Any new or unknown keylogging programs won't be detected as their signatures aren't recognized by the software.
- Keyloggers are one of the primary reasons why you have to turn on your **firewall**. The firewall prevents any unauthorized information from leaving your computer. If a keylogger is installed in your computer, the information it's attempting to send can't get through. Although Windows Firewall is somehow, useful, you should invest in more secure firewall software.
- You can use "**Spybot**" software which not only detects keyloggers but also the Trojan horses (one of the ways remote keyloggers are installed)
- You can also use less popular operating system such as GNU/Linux, which have very little compatible keylogger software available.

3.) Social Engineering

Hacking Facebook? Gmail? Ymail? Twitter? Well, the trick in doing that is much easier and scarier. Social engineering is a term that describes a non-technical kind of intrusion that relies on human interaction and often involves tricking other people to break security procedures. For example in Facebook, today, when I am writing this book, Facebook has a security question that if

you just have a little chitchat with the target about that question then you'll discover the answer and break-in to their account easily.

Countermeasures:

- Simply educate the users about the tricks such as avoid giving too much detailed information, especially if you know that that it is your security question in some accounts.
- If you own a company, it is better to train your employees to demand proof of identity over the phone and in person.

4.) R.A.T.

RAT stands for Remote Administration Tool. It is mostly used for malicious purposes, such as controlling the victim's computer remotely, stealing the victims' data, deleting and/or editing some files on the victim's computer. One can infect someone else by sending them a file called "Server". When this file is opened by the victim, it will plant itself deep into the system and starts to run in the background anonymously. Additionally, it can also send a message to the attacker every time the victim's computer is active like when a computer is turned on.

These are the things that a RAT can do in the victim's computer:

- Manage files. (Delete/Modify)
- Control Web Browser. (Change homepage, open a website)
- Get system information. (OS version, Antivirus name,

- RAM Memory, Computer Name, Network Address etc.)
- Get passwords, credit card numbers, or any private data
 - View and control remote desktop. (Take a screenshot or a snap from the webcam)
 - Record camera, or sound (Control mic and camera)
 - Control mouse or keyboard input
 - Almost everything you can do in your own computer.

Countermeasure:

- RATs are one of the most difficult to detect because they usually don't show up in the list of running programs or tasks so it is better to have the best antivirus you can ever have to defend yourself from this kind of attack.
- Always keep your antivirus up to date.
- Don't download files in the Internet from the parties you don't actually know.

5.) Wi-Fi Hacking

As of now there are two types of wireless encryption-standard, Wired Equivalent Privacy (**WEP**) and Wi-Fi Protected Access (**WPA** and **WPA2**). Every Wi-Fi that has a WEP encryption is very insecure. By using fern Wi-Fi cracker or any other Wi-Fi hacking tool out there you can hack the password of the Wi-Fi in just a minute and a couple of clicks of some buttons. However, if you are using WPA then it is more secure, but it does not mean that it is not vulnerable. Hackers can hack WPA Wi-Fi if the password is weak by just using a simple dictionary attack.

Countermeasures:

- Use WPA encryption.

- Use a strong password.

6.) Dictionary Attack

This is the method used to break password-based security systems, in which the attacker automatically tests all the possible passwords beginning with words that have a higher possibility of being used, such as names, places, and animals. The word “dictionary” refers to the attacker exhausting all of the words in a dictionary in an attempt to discover the password. Dictionary attacks are typically done with software instead of an individual manually trying each possible password.

Countermeasures:

- From a user's perspective, make sure that your password is difficult to guess and can't be found in the dictionary. It must have a symbol and numbers.
- In the programmer's perspective, make sure that you have an **account locking** program in your password system. Locking an account after several unsuccessful attempts (three to five) prevents a hacker from checking multiple possible passwords to log in.

Those techniques are some of the common techniques hackers use in their targets and it is very important for you to know how to counter all of these things. Those things are just to give you a glimpse of what we will tackle in the hands-on hacking and much more detailed technical hacking in my next book.

8.4 Learning Continuously

Congratulations! You just learned how to use the inborn power deep inside you: the *hacker's mindset* that everyone can have whether you are technical or not. You've learned that everyone in this world can be a hacker. And you can **hack everything** no matter how hard it is to break-in.

You also learned that all of this power must be used purely in ethical. All of you now who read this book are **responsible** to help our digital world to make it more **secure**. You are now responsible to make a more secure cyberspace for the **next generation**. For as a popular saying goes, *"With great power comes great responsibility."*

The good thing in this era is we have the **Internet**. You can learn anything you want in just a click of a button. So go utilize this thing called the Internet for your development. As a hacker, you must learn continuously and you never stop learning because every field in this life is a never-ending mystery so learning must also be eternal for you to become ahead.

True learning will be yours forever if you will apply it in the real world. So we are encouraging you to apply it, especially the hacker's mindset:

- Think Out of the Box
- You Can Achieve Anything
- There is NO 100% Secure in Cyberspace
- Hackers Dig Deeper
- Be a P.R.O. (Patient, Resourceful and Observant)

Those are the things most of the security professionals didn't have. Most of them belittle it and say that they are already using those things; but based on their acts, they're not.

Always remember that **hacking's great power relies on the hacker's mindset** and not to the tools they are using. That's why we want you to learn first how to hack without using any tools. Again, **technology is just a subordinate to hacking** and the only reason why technicalities are the main focus of hacking nowadays is because we are in the technology era today. However, reading this book will be for nothing if you won't apply it so go apply what you've learned in this book ethically.

This book is a series. The book two of this will talk about the technicalities in hacking so for those who are waiting for easy-to-understand techniques about technical hacking, grab our next book. This is for you to complete the 100% of a Be-Do-Re hacker. By reading this book you just acquired the 80% of being a hacker, the majority of being a hacker and the thing that every hacker needs; and by reading the next book, you you will now complete the 100% of becoming a Be-Do-Re hacker.

If I don't have this kind of training, then probably I won't achieve the things I have now. Although Mr. K is my primary suspect behind the Anti-Cryptors, I have to thank him for he reveals the truth to me about the hacking industry. Thanks to his training that gave me a strong foundation in true hacking. Maybe, he just set up the Mapuan Files hacking event as my last test to him, but whatever it is I am still thankful. And because I want the world to know the truth, I wrote this book.



8.5 Join Us In Our Revolution!

Hacking is one of the extraordinary powers of humans. However, most of the people don't use it because they say it is "bad". It just looks bad because there are a lot of bad people who are using it. In short, this power was notoriously used by bad people so it became known as a great weapon of the villains, but what will happen if that power will go into the hands of a superhero?

Most of the bad people know how to use this power but only a few good people know it. That's why I created this book: to populate our cyberspace with superheroes or the "ethical hackers". If we overpopulate the cyberspace with superheroes, then probably, the cybercrime rate will decrease. That will be one of our solutions to definitely change not just the cyberspace but also the world and this is your chance to be a part of it!

How to join in our revolution? Simply, spread the idea of this book because the idea is bulletproof. We want it to spread like a virus but with a good effect and social media is good with it so...

- Take a photo with this book in your Facebook or Twitter account.
- Include our official hashtag #Cryptors
- The caption must be related to the idea of this book which is to become the modern superhero of this society through the power of hacking.
- Every month we will pick a winner whose picture is extraordinary (25%), caption is motivating (25%) and has the huge numbers of likes and shares/retweet (50%).
- The winner will be recognized in our social media accounts and to our official website as one of the modern superheroes who spread the golden idea of this book. Then he/she can get the limited edition T-shirt of Cryptors as a souvenir.

(For the updated details here, just go to www.cryptors.org)

Why do this? The world needs the idea of this book and you are one of the ways for them to discover this thing. This book is a real treasure for those who want to make a difference in this world so go spread the idea. We want the people to discover this in the fastest way and to be honest; **YOU** are the key to it.

Why not pirate this book? By buying this book, whether it's in a form of e-book or paperback, you just helped this revolution. Encourage the people to buy and not to pirate this book. By doing that, we can possibly make another book to expose the truth and give the idea that the people must know about hacking. And of course, if you value a thing then you will probably spend a dime. So why not legally support this book?

Are you a shy person who doesn't want to take a picture?

Then you can still join the revolution by making a status update in your social media like Facebook or Twitter with the hashtag #Cryptors. Of course, the status must be about the idea of this book we want to spread like a virus. The most liked and shared status for the month will also get recognition on our website as one of the superheroes who shared the golden idea of this book. Then he/she can get the limited edition Cryptors T-shirt as a souvenir.

(For the updated details here, just go to www.cryptors.org)

Are you an avid video maker? This is your chance to make a difference in this world by your creation.

- Create a 60 to 90 seconds amazing commercial about the idea of this book we want to spread.
- Every year there would be 3 winners.
- Champion will have a 20,000 Philippine pesos cash prize, certificate and a trophy, recognition on our website and social media as superheroes who shared the golden idea of this book through video-making, and will have Cryptors T-shirt as a souvenir.
- 1st runner up will have a certificate, recognition on our website and social media as superheroes who shared the golden idea of this book through video-making, and will have Cryptors T-shirt as a souvenir.
- 2nd runner up will have a certificate, recognition on our website and social media as superheroes who shared the golden idea of this book through video-making, and will have Cryptors T-shirt as a souvenir.
- The awarding will held in the annual hacking conference organized by Cryptors.

(For the updated details here, just go to www.cryptors.org)

Whatever race, culture, religion you are right now you can still join this revolution. This revolution will raise cyber security awareness around the world. It will make our cyberspace more secure and by just being with us in this revolution, you just make a difference. Go! And become the **superhero** of this modern society!

~ **Things to Remember**

- You can **HACK EVERYTHING** by just being creative and resourceful on how you will use the things you already have.
- You can hack without tools for the greatest tool is your **hacker mindset**.
- Professional hackers who depend too much on tools are **not real hackers**.
- Hackers who primarily use their hacker mindset and use technology as a subordinate to their operation are the **real hackers**.
- You can learn anything better than those who study in the classroom by simply using "**SELF-STUDY**" which is a primary skill of a hacker.
- A hacker **learns continuously**.
- Hacking is all about the **thinking details**. The **technical details** are just subordinate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Go to www.cybrary.it: (For FREE)
 - Learn **CompTIA A+** (For you to know the **basics of computer** software and hardware)
 - Learn **CompTIA Network+** (For you to have an in depth knowledge about **networks**)
 - Learn **CompTIA Linux+** (For you to have an in depth knowledge on how to use the **Linux** platform)
 - Learn **CompTIA Security+** (For you to have a basic knowledge in **security**)
- Go to www.codecademy.com: (For FREE)
 - Learn **Python** programming language (For you to have basic knowledge in programming)
 - Learn **HTML & CSS** (For you to have a basic knowledge in web designing)
- Read the **Book II of Cyber Defender**:
 - You will learn the **realistic** approach of how technical hacking occurs.
 - You will learn **hands on** with image guides on how to do a certain technical hacks.
 - The book will be based on my **real life story** so that you will learn, at the same time, you enjoy.

RESOURCES

- **Why Teach Hacking?:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwJyKmCbOws>
- **Hackers, Superhero:** <http://money.cnn.com/technology/superhero-hackers/>
- **Mapuan Files hacking:** <https://twitter.com/search?q=mapuan%20files%20hack&src=typd>
- **Barnaby Jack:** <http://motherboard.vice.com/blog/barnaby-jack-hacker-autopsy>
- **Reuben Paul:** <http://www.idigitaltimes.com/meet-reuben-paul-9-year-old-hacker-changing-world-one-app-time-438461>
- **Types of Hackers:** <http://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-a-hacker-definition-lesson-quiz.html>
- **Misconceptions About Hackers:** <http://hubpages.com/technology/Misconceptions-About-Hackers>
- **Allegory of the Cave:** <http://study.com/academy/lesson/the-allegory-of-the-cave-by-plato-summary-analysis-explanation.html>
- **Social Engineering:** <http://www.social-engineer.org/>
- **Pipl:** www.pipl.com

THIS BOOK TELLS ABOUT THE JOURNEY OF A YOUNG MAN NAMED ALEXIS, WHO KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT ETHICAL HACKING, AND SUDDENLY TRANSFORMS INTO A MAN WHO KNOWS IT. HE WILL REVEAL THE STEPS HE ENCOUNTERED IN KNOWING HOW TO HACK EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN. HOWEVER, THERE IS SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST KNOWING IT. HE DISCOVERED SOME REVELATIONS THAT WILL DESTROY YOUR TRADITIONAL BELIEFS ABOUT ETHICAL HACKING, LASTLY THIS BOOK IS MADE FOR EVERYONE, SO WHETHER YOU'RE TECHNICAL OR NOT, YOU WILL SURELY UNDERSTAND THIS BOOK WELL.

WARNING: THIS BOOK IS NOT FOR THE FAINT-HEARTED!

"IT WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO THINK LIKE A HACKER!"

— MERIC MARA, CEO AND CTO OF 8LAYER TECHNOLOGY AND THE MAN BEHIND THE 1ST LINUX DISTRO IN THE PHILIPPINES



ALEXIS LINGAD IS THE CONTROVERSIAL HACKER BEHIND THE MAPUAN FILES HACKING ISSUE THAT WITNESSED BY 20,000+ NETIZENS IN MAPUA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. HE IS ALSO THE FOUNDER AND CEO OF CRYPTORS INC. AND A CYBER SECURITY CONSULTANT IN IEI SECURITIES, LLC.