

INTERVIEW WITH A HACKER

Chronicles of a Black Hat

How you would define yourself with respect to the hacking activities you are conducting?

I'm a Black Hat. This means that hacking is my job and gives me salary. I run black-ops for those hiring me. I'm quite expensive.

How did you learn hacking techniques?

Mainly at school. At the University we also used to have a couple of cybercafés at the very beginning (around 1999-2000), which is basically where most of us started.

What led you to become a hacker?

I'd say it was a mix of friends and free time. I was a teenager hanging out at that cybercafé and... everything began there, ya know. I was impressed by the things those guys were doing, I just fell in love with hacking... it was that much easier to accomplish goals, hacking into servers, stealing information, pictures... a lot of fun. Then I went into other things, meaning money.

What were/are your aims?

Right now it's just money. People can hire me, I do the job, get the money, and disappear.

Have your motivations for hacking ever changed over time?

I would say yes. At the very beginning it was all about curiosity and learning. Then I decided to step forward into the real world, where people pay you money because they don't know how to play as I do.

Are you part of a group or do you act alone?

I was initially part of a group. Then some people left, others stayed, although they lacked real skills; in the meanwhile I grew up and updated myself. That's why right now I'm working mainly alone. I may buy Oday from some friends, but I prefer to run all jobs alone.

What criminal offenses have you committed with a computer?

I guess they would include gaining unauthorized access to computer systems and networks; stealing accounts, personal information, and selling them out. And I guess also industrial espionage and money laundering.

Have you ever been arrested or convicted for computer crimes?

No.

Have laws and penalties against cybercrimes had a deterrent effect on you?

Sort of... but I've decided to take the risk.

Have technical difficulties encountered when penetrating a system represented a deterrent or a challenge?

They are basically a challenge. Whenever the target can't be hacked well... ya know, there's plenty of other targets out there :)

What is your main aspiration?

Stop working in 2 or 3 years, retiring, giving money to my family, buy my own house.

Can you describe the impact and results of the hacking activities you have conducted?

I don't understand the question.

Have you ever considered the negative effects of your hacking activities on people?

Are you talking about identity theft and this kind of things? Yes I did consider the effects, but... it's not my fault if the victim is an idiot, I'm sorry.

* Interview conducted by Raoul Chiesa in coordination with the UNICRI Management and External Relations team.