İSTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
ENGINEERING ETHICS

COMPUTER ETHICS
"PİJAMALI HACKER"
TAMER ŞAHİN

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TERM PROJECT

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CONTENTS

PİJAMALI HACKER

1. Abstract

Technology seems very useful for humanity at first sight, but it can be harmful for some cases. In this project, the computer technology was defined, and one of the important possible damage with using it, was mentioned. Hacking is an activity which is both harmful and useful. There are a lot of famous hackers in the world, and Tamer Şahin is one of them who are Turk. In this study, Tamer Şahin and what he has done have been discussed. Moreover, with the consideration of virtue theory and utilitarianism, ethical comments have been written.

2. Introduction

2.1 Computer Ethics

As technology has improved very rapidly from past to nowadays, computers have become more important for humanity. Moreover, computer and information technology is used in a social context rich with moral, cultural, and politic ideas. The technology is used in business, homes, criminal justice systems, educational institutions, medicine, science, government and so on. In each one of these environments, there are human purposes and interests, institutional goals, social relationships, traditions, etc. All of these have an influence on how a new technology is understood and which purpose it used for.

Ethics, in the classical sense, refers to the rules and standards governing the conduct of an individual with others. Since the introduction of the World Wide Web, the definition of ethics has evolved, too. A new type of ethics known as computer ethics has emerged. Computer ethics is concerned with standards of conduct as they pertain to computers.

Computer ethics have numerous issues which can be emphasized comprehensively; furthermore, hacking is one of the important one. [1]

2.2 Hacking and hacker

When hacker and hacking was first coined, hacker referred to a computer enthusiast and hacking referred to the feats such enthusiasts were able to accomplish. Hackers were individuals who loved computers and would spend hours and hours figuring how to do clever things with them. Usually hackers were young men who had acquired a good deal of knowledge about computers, and they shared this knowledge with one another through the first electronic bulletin boards. [2]

Only later did the term hacker acquire negative connotations. Hacker began to be used to refer to those who used computers for illegal actions, especially gaining unauthorized access to computer systems, and stealing and then sharing proprietary software. [3]

In most cases, hacking is illegal and harmfulness activity is apparent. Most internet users want a system that is reliable; works without interruption; has privacy and integrity; and doesn't require a lot of effort or resources to make secure. Thus, from the perspective of most internet users, hackers are a nuisance or worse.

3. A short life history of Tamer Şahin

Tamer Şahin was born in İzmir in 1981. His interest of computers first began while he was taking a computer course at his thirteen. After he has finished high school, he started to study on computer as a professional. He said that "programların bilinmeyen yönlerini incelemek ve zayıflıklarını bulmak bana tarifsiz bir haz veriyordu." [4] It is reported that he was pleasure with the studying unknown part of the computer systems. His interest drove him to search of the unknown things on computer. Then he became the first hacker of Turkey. Now, he is known as "pijamalı efsane".

Furthermore, it is reported that Tamer Şahin didn't take any university courses after finishing high school. He thinks that if he took computer education at the university, he would not learn the things which he knows know. Moreover, he worked several computer corporations before he became famous.

3.1 The facts which is done by Tamer Şahin

- In 1999, Tamer Şahin did his first big hacking test. He entered into the systems of Superonline which is the biggest server in Turkey. After this hacking, Superonline has remained closed for one week. As a consequence of this, Tamer Şahin was reported as the first man who was stood trial and had punishment in Turkey. He was sentenced to prison one year and eight month; however, it was delayed for the opinion of not doing same crime.

He tells that he entered the Superonline system and then he took the users passwords. After doing this, he left his sign on their systems. Afterwards, Superonline collapsed but he noticed lately. At this time, the page which Tamer Şahin has done occurred at Superonline screen. He was called but he told lies, he said that he had not done this hacking.

One day, the policemen arrived and Tamer Şahin was taken to probation. He was interrogated a far time, his computers and CDs was taken.

After Tamer Şahin's Superonline hacking appeared, he got the sack from his work. He states that "Ben sadece Superonline'nın güvenli olmadığını ispatlamaya çalışmıştım. Onlara e-mail göndererek sistemlerine girdiğimi söyledim. Bana inanmadılar. Ben de sistemlerini çökerttim. Ama elimdeki güç çok hoşuma gitmişti. Çünkü Superonline'da benim bayrağım dalgalanmıştı. Tabii faturası ağır oldu. Mahkeme beni 8 ay hapis cezasına çarptırdı. Fakat mahkeme cezamı erteledi. " [5] He was unemployed for some time and after that he recognized his abilities.

In addition, he says that "Elimdeki gücün farkına vardım ve büyük holdingler ile uluslararası firmaların bilgisayar sistemlerine sızdım. Firmaların bilgisayar sistemlerini kırdığım zaman onları e-mail ile uyarıyordum. Benimle dalga geçtiler. Bende sinirlenip bilgisayarlarına imzamı attım. Sonra bu işten para kazanmaya başladım." [6]

- In 2000, his name was heard again with another hacking. He entered the systems of Osmanlı Bankası which is the oldest bank of Turkey. Also, while he was hacking, he left a message on the web site of Osmanlı Bankası. This event was replaced in whole Turkish media. Moreover, the judge about this case has just finished and he was found innocent because of not finding any proof.

Tamer Sahin who declared at the beginning of internet banking in Turkey a lot of people's credit cards is being empty is judged for Osmanlı Bankası's information system.He said that "Ben sadece Osmanlı Bankası'nın bilgisayar sisteminin güvenli olmadığı yönünde banka yetkililerini yasal olarak uyardım.Benimle dalga geçtiler. Bana sistemlerinin güvenli olduklarını söylediler." After that he hacked Osmanlı Bankası and so he is put in a jail and questioned by the police.And he is judged and acquitted. Tamer Şahin agreed who says Osmanlı Bankası's officers snitched me to the police instead of listening and thanking me "Benim tek suçum onları uyarmaktı.Yoksa yasadışı hiçbirşey yapmadım." After that Osmanlı Bankası's portion decreased in stock markets, it lost a lot of customer.

- Afterwards he focused on professional work life, and he used his abilities of hacking for legal authorities such as army, security organization (Emniyet Teşkilatı) and special companies. He detected countless failing of computer systems, he developed defense systems. [8]

Tamer Şahin also investigated the computer system of TSK. Experts states that only TSK has a good protecting system. The security's system that has an importance in terms of general security, is thougth it is not safe enough because of budget and staff problems. There are ciritcal deficiencies in other public instituations' and companies' systems.

Tamer şahin states " it can be said that there are no public instutiations that use open source codded program producing with national software. The security wall and attack establishing systems producing by Havelsan, are used in TSK's definite steps. other public instituations and companies are not aware of source codded programming performance. The security uses the software that is belonging to software producers creating big problems in the world. [9]

- At 2002, Tamer Şahin entered Microsoft computer systems and he published some documents which were including secrecy about Hotmail and other project of Microsoft. He did not only enter the mail box of Bill Gates and Steve Balmer who are publisher of Microsoft Company but also he showed their special messages on his own web page to whole world. These special writings contains some private items which is about an important project is called "Microsoft Secrets". This project is the main source of computer security systems and it put forward the weakness of Windows Systems compared to Unix Systems. The hacking of Microsoft Systems took extensive parts on several global sources such as Wired, Slashot, The Register, Zdnet. [10]

- At 2005- 2006 Tamer Şahin prepared software "Metacortex" which is known as one of the best security systems of World. It provides security system solutions for OpenBSD. Metacortex is a useful system that provides various types of possibilities for internet knowledge transfer. [11]

- At the moment he is studying on "Biosec" project which is control programme software. [12]

3.2 Some statements said by Tamer Şahin

- "Dünya kötü hackerlarla dolu. Ama ben bildiklerimi hiçbir zaman çıkar için kullanmadım. İstersem çalardım ve inanılmaz zengin olurdum. Ama benim böyle bir amacım yok. Ben dürüst olarak yaşadım." [13]

- "Genel olarak bir yargı hakim, hackerlığın yasadışı bir şey olduğunu sanmaları, bilgiyi ve gerçeği arayan insanların yasadışı bir şeyler yaptığının düşünülmesi üzücü. Bugün yazılım endüstrisinde hackerlar ve yazılım üreticileri adeta bir çarkın dişlileri gibidir, bir taraf yazılımı üretir diğer taraf ise bunun daha iyi düzeye gelebilmesi için güvenlik açıklarını ortaya çıkarır." [14]

- "Benim fikrim, eğer etrafınızdaki insanlar zamanınızı boşuna harcadığınızı düşünüyorlar fakat siz yaptığınız şeyden gerçekten zevk alıyorsanız, buna kapılmışsınız demektir ve yaptığınızdan taviz vermiyorsanız içinizde bir Hacker'ın iyi tarafı var demektir. Ama endüstri casusluğu gibi başka firmaların sistemlerine girip çaldığınız bilgileri bir başka firmaya para karşılığı satıyorsanız, siz sadece bir fırsatçı hatta muhtemelen "suçlu"sunuz. Hacking becerisini suç işlemek için kullanmanın mümkün olduğu doğru fakat bunu yaptığınızda artık hacker olmaktan çıkıp "suçlu" oluyorsunuz. Ben ilk tanıma dahil olduğumu düşünüyorum." [15]

- "Her yerde söylediğim gibi bu ilk olarak bir "ego tatmini" olarak başlamıştı. Ben daha en başından ticari başarı hedeflenen, aşırı idealist görünen bir girişimin başarılı olacağına inanmıyorum. Başta ego tatmini amaçlı başlayan çalışmalarım şimdi ciddi bir iş olarak ele alınıyor" [16]

- "Cebimdeki 1,5 milyon lirayla milyon dolarlık sistemleri çökertmek çok hoşuma gidiyordu." [17]

- "Superonline o dönemler Türkiye'nin en büyüğüydü. Sistemlerine girdim ve kullanıcı şifrelerini aldım. Dayanamayıp imzamı da bıraktım. Benim yaptığım anlaşıldığında o zaman çalıştığım firma beni işten çıkardı. Ama elimdeki güç çok hoşuma gitmişti. Hackleyebildiğim her yeri hack etmeye başladım. Sabahlara kadar üstümde pijamamla büyük şirketlerle uğraştım. Doktoralı, milyarlarca lira maaş alan adamları kızdırmak hoşuma gidiyordu." [18]

- "Bir defasında bir yerden rica ettiler. Almanya'da faaliyet gösteren bir tarikatın sitesini kilitledim." [19]

- "İsmini açıklamak istemediğim bir bankadan daha önce 9 bin kredi kartı şifresi çalmıştım. Onlara bunu anlattım ve sistem güvenliklerini düzeltmelerini istedim. Bankanın sistem güvenliği sorumluları bana teşekkür etti ve olay kapandı. Osmanlı Bankası'na da onların güvenlik açıklarını anlatan bir mail attım. Banka bana yolladığı mailde sistemlerinde bir sorun olmadığını söyledi. Oysa sonradan kontrol ettiğimde onlara anlattığım sorunları giderdiklerini gördüm. Bana teşekkür etmediler. Bu yüzden de 16 gündür internet şubesini hack ediyorum." [20]

- "Yaklaşık bir yıl kadar önce e-mail yolu ile bir iş teklifi almıştım. Kendi firmam olduğundan ve çalışma felsefemden dolayı (memurluk pek bana göre sayılmaz) reddetmiştim. Ama elbetteki böyle bir talebin gelmesi insanın hoşuna gidiyor. Bu sabah mailbox' ıma baktığımda ise tekrar "Hi Tamers from Google" başlıklı bir e-mail ile karşılaştım. Sanırım tekrar Google' ın brain hunting ağına takılmışım ve ana ekipte çalışmak için bir öneri getirdiler. Güzel teklif, güzel firma. Ama yinede bana göre değil." [21]

- "Bir arkadaşıma kredi kartı şifrelerini nasıl çalacağını öğrettim. O da çaldığı şifrelerle yurt dışındaki eticaret sitelerine sipariş vermeye başladı. Fakat, ipin ucunu kaçırdı. Bir gün Amerika'dan pardösü siparişi vermiş. Şirkette kredi kartının gerçek sahibini "Elimizde A modeli kalmadı da B modeli ister misiniz' diye sormak için aramış. Sonuçta olay ortaya çıktı ve arkadaşım hapse girdi."[22]

4. Ethical Comments on Tamer Şahin Case

4.1. Virtue Ethics

Taking into consideration of Virtue Ethics, some comments can be done with the looking of sentences which is said by Tamer Şahin. He thinks that hackers are guilty if they sell the information which is stolen by hacking and Tamer Şahin did not sell any information to anybody. With this aspect, he seems not guilty. On the other hand, anyone has any rights for finding any information about others. He started hacking for satisfaction of his ego. Virtue ethics emphasizes character, therefore behaving with the aim of gratifying for ego could not be considered as a good character.

Secondly, it is stated that when he had a little money, he was pleasure with hacking systems which are high-priced. This is not a good behavior. Again, it is reported that he was pleasure with his ability, he used this for everywhere. He spent his time from nights to mornings with trying to hack big companies. He was so ambitious, and he got angry with big companies without any cause. He said that he was happy with making men get angry who took doctorate education. He liked making somebody furious who did not any relationship with him.

In addition to above, he hacked somewhere for somebody's request. Can be it is ethical that to hack some web pages for requests or desires or wishes? Indeed, somebody will get angry when he/she sees his web documents have been damaged. Virtue Theory includes generosity and honesty, not misdoings.

Intercalary, Tamer Şahin found mistakes web page of a company, and he sent an e-mail to company authority about this mistakes. The company replied his e-mail and denied the mistakes; however, they corrected the mistakes. Tamer Şahin got angry when he noticed that they lied about faults, and he also became sad for their not thanking. With revenge, he hacked their web page. This is also another example of being unethical way for virtue ethics.

Also, while a complex search about Tamer Şahin was being done, his articles found. One of his articles is about a work proposal of Google. He made fun of Google's offer. It is glaring that he wrote articles about his special work life.

Finally, he teached how to steal passwords of credit cards to one of his friends. This teaching is really really bad. Tamer Şahin used his hacking ability in an unethical way. Moreover, his friend stole some money, and attacked.

4.2 Utilitarianism

At the beginning, it is reported that the world has numerous bad hackers. Tamer Şahin is a big hacker, he hacked Osmanlı Bankası, and if he wanted he would rob the bank and could be very rich. He says that he lives with feeling honesty. On the other hand, if one bad hacker noticed the mistakes of web pages of Osamnlı Bankası, he or she could rob it and a lot of people would be damaged. Tamer Şahin rescued Osmanlı Bankası from big damages. Also, he did not leave any damage. For the utilitarianism aspects, Tamer Şahin made society favour.

It is stated that hackers usually discover faults of software systems, and help for correct them. They find security problems of web pages, additionally. If they do not find, huge hazards can occur. Therefore; hacking is very useful activity for humanity if it is not exploited.

Tamer Şahin is an extreme hacker; he did not earn any money from robbering. He did hacking like as a hobby, quasi he behaved for joking. He did not gice big damages to anywhere.

5. Discussions with literature

In literature, generally there are good comments about Tamer Şahin. They explained the facts about him in a polite way. They state he is one of the big hackers of the World, and the first hacker of our country. However, one of them is criticized inclemently. One author thought that Tamer Şahin did these things with the purpose of being famous and popular. She did not believe that Tamer Şahin had entered Superonline computer systems or Osmanlı Bankası really. Moreover, she stated Tamer Şahin has behaved tricky. She compared Tamer Şahin with the people who love to magazine pagesand want to always be at media. [23]

In this project, we did not find any response of Tamer Şahin to this author about her claims. The events of hacking which were done by Tamer Şahin are listed and explained.

6. Conclusions and Suggestions

This event ends in a happy way. Tamer Şahin did not damage any one, did not earn any economic profits, only he did little damages to some web pages such as retaining closed one week of Superonline. Nowadays, Tamer Şahin writes articles about hacking, he attends seminars of Microsoft, and he is offered to work for Google which is one of the biggest internet companies.

At the first time of discovery of hacking, it is not used for damages. After sometime, some hackers use this hacking ability for their interests such as economic earning and robberring internet bank for earning money. It is hoped that, these bad hackers will give up these bad doings, and techniques of hacking will not used for damaging any body.

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