











VULNERABILITY IN COMMONLY-USED DIGITAL **PLATFORMS**

PART 2

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THREATS?













PRIVACY BREACH

Lindsey Donnell (2019) reported that Snap, the company behind the famous Snapchat social media app, has been in hot water after a recent investigation revealed that Snap workers were misusing their access to sensitive user data - including location data, stored Snaps, and phone numbers.



FACT:

Snapchat employees can view your personal data.





twitter



SECURITY BREACH

In July 2020, Twitter encountered a security breach. The hackers targeted 130 Twitter accounts, including several that belong to high-profile figures including Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, former President Barack Obama, and corporate titans Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, and Elon Musk.

FACT:

Twitter accounts of high-profile individuals have been breached; hackers can also breach yours.







instagram

UNSECURED DATABASE

In May 2019, CISOMAG reported that Instagram database had been breached. The database had over 49 million documents exposed online including the users' biodata, profile pictures, the number of followers they have, their location by city and country, and contact information such as the Instagram account owner's email address and phone number.

FACT:

Your account's data may have already been exposed online.











BOTNET ATTACKS

On a post with a link to a supposedly explicit videos, users are being tagged by either contacts or strangers. Some highprofile accounts, such as ex-mayor Herbert Bautista, had been spotted posting a malicious picture of a woman in his Facebook story (ABS-CBN News, 2021).



FACT:

Your account may post, share, or make an activity without your knowledge.

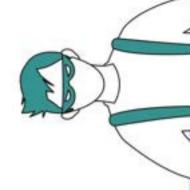








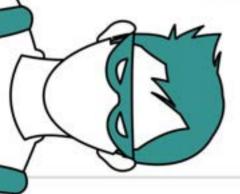




Posers

CNN Philippines Staff (2020) has reported that Several colleges throughout the nation stated that they had received reports of fake and empty social media profiles bearing the identities of their students and alumni emerging online.

FACT:



Your public information (profile picture, display name, birthday, and more) can also be used by other people to imitate your account.









facebook



TROLLS

According to Henry Mihm et. al. (2019), these troll armies are a great tool for propaganda due to their scalability and low cost. Trolls have a destabilizing effect on politics in the Philippines, where politicians have used Facebook to dominate information and discussion on the internet.

FACT:

Many Facebook trolls can or may already be a part of your Facebook friends list. Facebook trolls aim to disrupt your Facebook activities by spouting gibberish hoping that they'll either bore or confuse you.







facebook

DATA BREACH

In August 2019, 533 million Facebook users' phone numbers and personal data were leaked online. According to Aaron Holmes (2021), A member of a low-level hacking forum freely distributed the phone numbers and personal information of hundreds of millions of Facebook users. However, Facebook chose not to tell the users whose personal information was stolen in a hack (Bowman, 2021).



FACT:

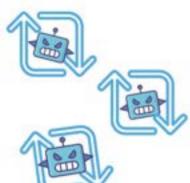
Your personal information uploaded on Facebook can also be breached by many different hackers around the cyberworld.





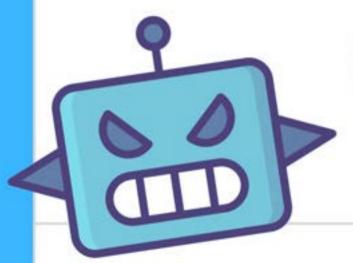






BOTNET ATTACKS

When one of your Twitter followers sends you a direct message with text or links he definitely didn't write — for example, promotions for drugs or items — it's a sign that his account has been infected with the Twitter DM virus. Refrain from clicking that kind of link to protect yourself from the DM virus.



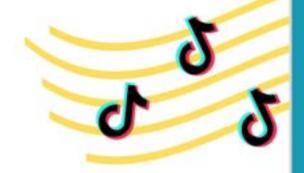
FACT:

Your account may tweet and message your followers without your knowledge.





tiktok



WEAK SECURITY

TikTok has received criticism for a variety of security flaws throughout its brief life. Lawmakers and authorities suspicious of Chinese technology have targeted the app's flaws, and parts of the US military have barred its usage on government-issued smartphones.

FACT:

If Tiktok's security is weak, then so is your account's.













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