

Lower 5 learn about social engineering

Social Engineering



Blagging (pretexting)

Blagging is the act of creating and using an invented scenario to engage a targeted victim in a manner that increases the chance the victim will divulge information or perform actions that would be unlikely in ordinary circumstances.

[Martin Lewis warns people not to fall for phone scam that recently tricked his own elderly relative - Daily Record](#)

The punishment for blagging in the UK is £5,000 in a magistrates' court or an unlimited amount in the Crown court.

You can stop blagging by reducing the amount of personal information that your share in person or online.

Phishing

Phishing is a technique of fraudulently obtaining private information, often using email or SMS. Channel Islands' woman loses £3,000 in 'Hi mum' scam

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-jersey-653/2338>

The consequences of scamming someone is up to 10 years imprisonment and a fine.

Don't click suspicious links in suspicious messages/emails.

If the message appears to come from a person you know, contact that person via some other means such as text message or phone call to confirm it. Report the message and delete it.

Shouldering (or shoulder surfing)

Shouldering is observing a person's private information over their shoulder e.g. cashpoint machine PIN numbers.

[Thieves used 'shoulder surfing' to steal man's life savings worth £22k | Personal Finance | Finance | Express.co.uk](#)

The punishment for shoulder surfing in the UK is up to 10 years in prison

To reduce shoulder surfing you should hide any paperwork or a keypad by moving your body or cupping your hand so they can't see any passwords or any personal information when your typing it in.

Real-life examples of Phishing

Here are some examples of Phishing attacks:

WhatsApp scam: NI phishing scam victims lose £65,000

Scammers have stolen about £65,000 after convincing victims from Northern Ireland they were sending money to relatives, the PSNI has said.

The fraud, where criminals generally pose as a family member requiring financial help through WhatsApp, has led to at least 110 reports to police since September.

PSNI Sgt Garin Pollock described the scam as "deceitful" and said one individual lost £15,000, while another sent £6,000 last week after receiving messages.

He advised that if anyone receives suspicious messages to phone their relative (on a number you know to be genuine) to confirm that any request for money is genuine.

Energy discount phishing: Robbed of £25,000 in text scam



Shouldering.



The consequences of shouldering could include:

- Identity theft.
- Selling your data on the dark web.
- Emptying of your bank account.

Shouldering is the process of looking over someone's over their shoulder.

You are using an ATM, and entering your bank details. Someone positions themselves behind you so they can look over your shoulder at your details. They now know what your credit card pin is. If you are in a rush, you may accidentally not log out of your account properly, giving the person after your data more information.

Ways to stay safe from shouldering:

- Use strong passwords.
- Two factor authentication.
- Biometric authentication.
- Don't give out personal information over the phone.

The Lower 5 GCSE class have are currently studying cyber security as part of their course. Social engineering is a growing risk to everyone who uses a computer and victims often feel that they are in some way to blame. As human beings we are all keen to help people and to believe the best in all that we read or see online, but Lower 5 have been discovering that you have to be very careful before clicking on an e-mail link or visiting an unfamiliar website.

Blagging, shouldering, phishing and pharming are just some of the terms they have researched to create presentations, including real life examples. We have also listened to this week's Radio 4 programme Start the Week: Hacking and Cybercrime which featured Jenny Radcliffe who is regularly employed to try to breach the security systems of organisations and is an expert in social engineering. If you would like to listen to the programme, please click [HERE](#).

Mrs Karen Titman