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Andriy Slynchuk's article on illegal activities that people unknowingly engage in on the internet, was both shocking and eye-opening. In this article, Slynchuk carefully lists eleven actions that are often taken for granted or seen as normal but carry legal consequences. Out of the eleven activities mentioned, the ones that most people easily fall victim to are using unofficial streaming services, torrent services, faking your identity online, using copyrighted images, and extracting audio from YouTube.

To start off with, streaming movies on unofficial websites and downloading from torrent sites can be very tempting due to the perception of being able to view paid content for free. Many people aren't aware that their acts violate copyright laws. Doing so promotes a culture of piracy, and could potentially lead to lawsuits from the copyright holders or even jail time. These days, people with ill-intent or specific motives engage in various online behaviors. Cybercriminals often create numerous fake social profiles to lure victims into their scams or frauds. Using someone else's identity or faking one's age has legal consequences as it violates trust and security on the internet. Many people also try to avoid using paid streaming services like Amazon or Apple music and instead use third-party websites to extract songs from YouTube. As mentioned by (Slynchuk, 2021), this act is illegal and advised against.

The activities that pose the greatest threat to cybersecurity are sharing passwords, addresses, or photos of others, recording a VoIP call without consent, and using other people's internet networks. Sharing the passwords, addresses or photos of others online not only violates their privacy but also places them at risk for potential attack both online and in-person, and can likely damage their reputation.

As much as the pitfalls are made clear, it is very important to know how to protect oneself online. Information is a key factor in all legal situations, and therefore it is crucial to know

how and when to give out information and to limit the amount of information that goes out. With history and tracking functions in browsers, it is always safe to use private networks and browsing sessions for added protection. Passwords are the most intimate levels of protection for any user, which is why the stronger the password, the better.

Almost all the things that the average person does casually on the internet bear legal consequences. The motivation of not spending money for content or entertainment, the false sense of anonymity, and all the other false perks that come from pirate and fake sites act as good incentives for illegal actions online. The lack of knowledge on these things is also a big contributing factor, which warrants educating people on safety measures online, as the article intends to do.

References

Slynchuk, A. (2021, June 1). *What illegal things are you unwittingly doing on the internet?* Clarion.co. Retrieved July 25, 2024, from https://clario.co/blog/illegal-things-you-do-online/