Computer hacking is defined as gaining Unauthorized access to files or data in a computer system. The threat of hacking has increased considerably in the 21st century with the growing internet usage. Hackers, who are online predators seeking access to one's system, can do so in several ways. First, a hacker can gain access directly, especially if the computer system does not have sufficient firewalls to prevent such. Hackers can also gain access to a design by using phishing scams. Phishing scams are bogus websites, text messages, emails, and fake calls sent to a victim's device. Once the "victim" clicks on any of these links, malicious software are installed into their computer systems. However, cybersecurity experts have recently discovered that hackers can now gain access to computer systems using non-click methods. This means that they can gain access to one's device without the user suspecting anything. However, this technology is only available to high-end users such as governments and possibly organized terrorist organizations. An example of such software is the Pegasus software developed by Israeli cybersecurity experts (John, 2019). Hackers can have caused detrimental effects on the users.

The main aim of hackers is to gain access to private and confidential information, one that is located on the deep web. This information includes hospital records and usernames, and passwords. Once the hackers gain access to such information, they can steal money from unsuspecting victim's bank accounts. They can take advanced credit and, in the process, ruin the victim's credit score. They can make online purchases, send money to offshore accounts, or convert them into untraceable currencies such as bitcoin. Hackers can also sell crucial information to terrorist organizations, which may use the information to cause damage. A person can know whether they are hacked if they spot unusual activity in their online activities. These unique activities include but are not limited to; missing funds in the account and emails from unknown sources. According to John (2019), if your phone flashes without any notification or call on it, it

can be a sign that you have been hacked. Online users can take several measures to protect themselves from online and hacking activities.

References

John, C. (2019, October 31). *Here's How You Can Tell If Your Phone Has Pegasus Israeli Spyware*. TheQuint; The Quint. https://www.thequint.com/explainers/pegasus-spyware-attack-and-affected-phones-explained