**Hacking Humans: Protecting Our DNA From Cybercriminals**

***Summary***

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In Juliette Rizkallah’s article, *“Hacking Humans: Protecting Our DNA From Cybercriminals”*, we take a look at the risks that come with digitizing DNA while asking ourselves if it’s worth it. This form of testing has become more popular over the years and is typically used for scientific and medical research. DNA modification does come with several benefits when it comes to the treatment/prevention of genetic related diseases, however, if fallen into the wrong hands, this digitizing can turn into a form of cyber crime.

Some may ponder why our DNA would be at risk to begin with. Well to hackers, DNA is their “pot of gold”, so to speak. This is because it is such a unique way of identification and with access, the possible manipulation tactics are endless: tracking, impersonation, theft, etc. Rizkallah states the consideration of acknowledging DNA as the **“ultimate personal identifying information”** which could be crucial if exposed to hackers. This goes beyond just simply having your ID wallet stolen. The gravity of DNA invasion is urgent due to the fact that one’s DNA is irreversible because it is what ultimately makes up a person. Manipulating in ways like digitizing makes DNA very vulnerable and at risk of any errors or malicious acts.

Eliminating DNA modifications such as digitizing or gene editing is overall impossible. With demand, these procedures will always be taking place. However, it is important to consider the ethics of such manipulation: how far can scientists take this technology, what can be accessed, and what the uses of our DNA could lead to, good and bad.

*Rizkallah, Juliette. “Hacking Humans: Protecting Our DNA From Cybercriminals.” 2018.*