

# **Secrets of the Cyber Underworld**

Unveiling the Hidden World of Cyber Criminals &  
Strategies for Addressing Cyber Crime

By  
Bolakale Aremu

## **Secrets of the Cyber Underworld**

Unveiling the Hidden World of Cyber Criminals &  
Strategies for Addressing Cyber Crime

Copyright © **AB Publisher LLC**



All rights reserved

**Published in the United States**

### **Limit of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty**

This book contains information obtained from authentic and highly regarded sources. Reasonable efforts have been made to publish reliable data and information, but the author and publisher cannot assume responsibility for the validity of all materials or the consequences of their use. All information given in this book is based on the author's own research and does not constitute technical, financial or professional advice.

The author and publisher have attempted to trace the copyright holders of all material reproduced in this publication, and apologize to copyright holders if permission to publish in this form has not been obtained. If any copyright material has not been acknowledged please write and let us know so we may rectify in any future reprint.

Except as permitted under U.S. Copyright Law, no part of this book may be reprinted, reproduced, transmitted, or utilized in any form by any electronic, mechanical, or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying, microfilming, and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, without written permission from the publisher.

**It is forbidden to reproduce any part of this book in any form or medium. Reselling is prohibited.**

## **Table of Contents**

1. What is Cyber Crime?
  - 1.1 Cyber Attack
  - 1.2 Cyber Warfare
2. The Emergence of Cyber Crime
  - 2.1 The Three Primary Types of Cyber Attacks
    - 2.1.1 Distributed Attack
    - 2.1.2 Central Attack
    - 2.1.3 Personal Attack
  - 2.2 High-Stakes Heists: Uncovering 3 Infamous Cyber Crime Cases
  - 2.3 Reasons Behind Under-Reporting of Cyber Crimes
3. Cyber Attacks During the Covid-19 Era: Strategies for Survival
  - 3.1 Fishing Scam
  - 3.2 TrickBot Infection
  - 3.3 Social Engineering Attacks
  - 3.4 Targeting Individuals Deemed "Unimportant"
  - 3.5 Targeted Attacks by Government Agencies
  - 3.6 The Netwalker Ransomware Threat
  - 3.7 Attacks on Organizations and Individuals via Malicious Websites and Other Methods
  - 3.8 Detection & Prevention of Spoofing Attacks
  - 3.9 Challenges & Strategies for Working & Learning from Home
    - 3.9.1 Two-factor Authentication
    - 3.9.2 Patches & Security Updates
    - 3.9.3 How a VPN can Help you
    - 3.9.4 Safety on HTTP & HTTPS Websites
    - 3.9.5 How & When to Test Your Organization's IRP (Cyber Incident Response Plan)
    - 3.9.6 How to Secure Zoom Meetings from Cyber Attacks and Protect Privacy

3.9.7 Misinformation, App Permissions & Privacy Worries

3.9.8 Stay Ahead: Get Trained if You're Part of an Organization

#### 4. Cyber Criminals & The Mafia

4.1 The Mainstream Position & People's Perceptions

4.2 My Focus and Approach

4.3 Definition of Organized Crime & Mafia

4.4 The Russian Mafia

4.4.1 Origin of the Russian Mafia

4.4.2 Notable Case Study: The Citibank Heist

4.5 Will Mafia Take Over Cyber Crime?

4.5.1 Key Finding 1: The Nuanced Relationship Between Organized Crime and Cyber Crime

4.5.2 Key Finding 2: Categories of Organized Crime Involvement in Cyber Crime

4.5.3 Key Finding 3: Leveraging Technology to Augment Traditional Criminal Enterprises

#### 5. A New Breed of Cyber Criminals

5.1 How They Get Protection

#### 6. The Most Effective Strategies for Combating Cybercrime

6.1. The Key Takeaways

# 1. What is Cyber Crime?

Cyber crime is a crime committed when someone uses a computer or a network to commit illegal activities. This can involve hacking into computer systems, stealing money from bank accounts, or taking sensitive information from companies, groups, or individuals. These crimes often aim to harm the victim's reputation, cause physical or mental distress, or lead to financial losses. Cyber crimes can target individuals or groups, with the intention of causing direct or indirect damage.

Cyber crimes often occur through modern communication networks like internet chat rooms, emails, forums, and mobile phones. These crimes can pose serious threats to a nation's security and financial stability. In the 21st century, cyber crimes have gained a lot of attention, especially issues like hacking, copyright infringement, child pornography, and child grooming. Additionally, there are significant privacy concerns when confidential information is intercepted or disclosed, whether legally or illegally.

## 1.1 Cyber Attack

A cyber attack is when someone tries to harm or gain unauthorized access to computer systems, networks, or personal devices. These attackers, often known as [hackers](#), aim to change, reveal, destroy, disable, or steal information, or use an asset without permission.

## 1.2 Cyber Warfare

Cyber crimes that cross international borders and involve the interests of at least one nation state are sometimes referred to as cyber warfare. The international legal system is working to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions through criminal courts.

## **2. The Emergence of Cyber Crime**

Cyber crime is rapidly increasing and has surpassed illegal drug trafficking as a major source of criminal revenue. For instance, in 2015, UK consumers lost 1.7 billion pounds to cyber crime. This is a serious issue. The [National Crime Agency](#) believes that organized crime groups are exploiting the opportunities presented by the internet, especially with the growth of eCommerce and online banking.

### **2.1 The Three Primary Types of Cyber Attacks**

Financial institutions invest heavily in protecting themselves against cyber attacks, but as seen in the movie \*Live Free or Die Hard\*, even the most sophisticated technology can sometimes be breached by elite hackers. These underground hackers have developed various cyber weapons that allow them to bypass encryption and infiltrate bank systems to steal funds. The average loss from a cyber heist is reportedly \$1.3 million, compared to just \$6,000 to \$8,000 from a physical bank robbery involving a weapon.

Now, let's examine the three main types of cyber attacks and how you can protect yourself against them.