

# Thinking Securely in a Digital World

*Kavinga Yapa Abeywardena*

*Sr. Lecturer - Computer Systems Engineering Department*

*Faculty of Computing - SLIIT*

# Why Should *Every Student* Think About Cybersecurity?



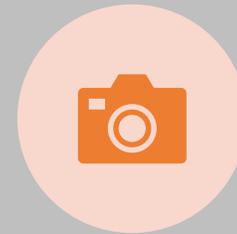
YOUR **SOCIAL  
MEDIA ACCOUNTS**



YOUR **BANKING /  
PAYMENT APPS**



YOUR **UNIVERSITY  
LMS ACCOUNT**

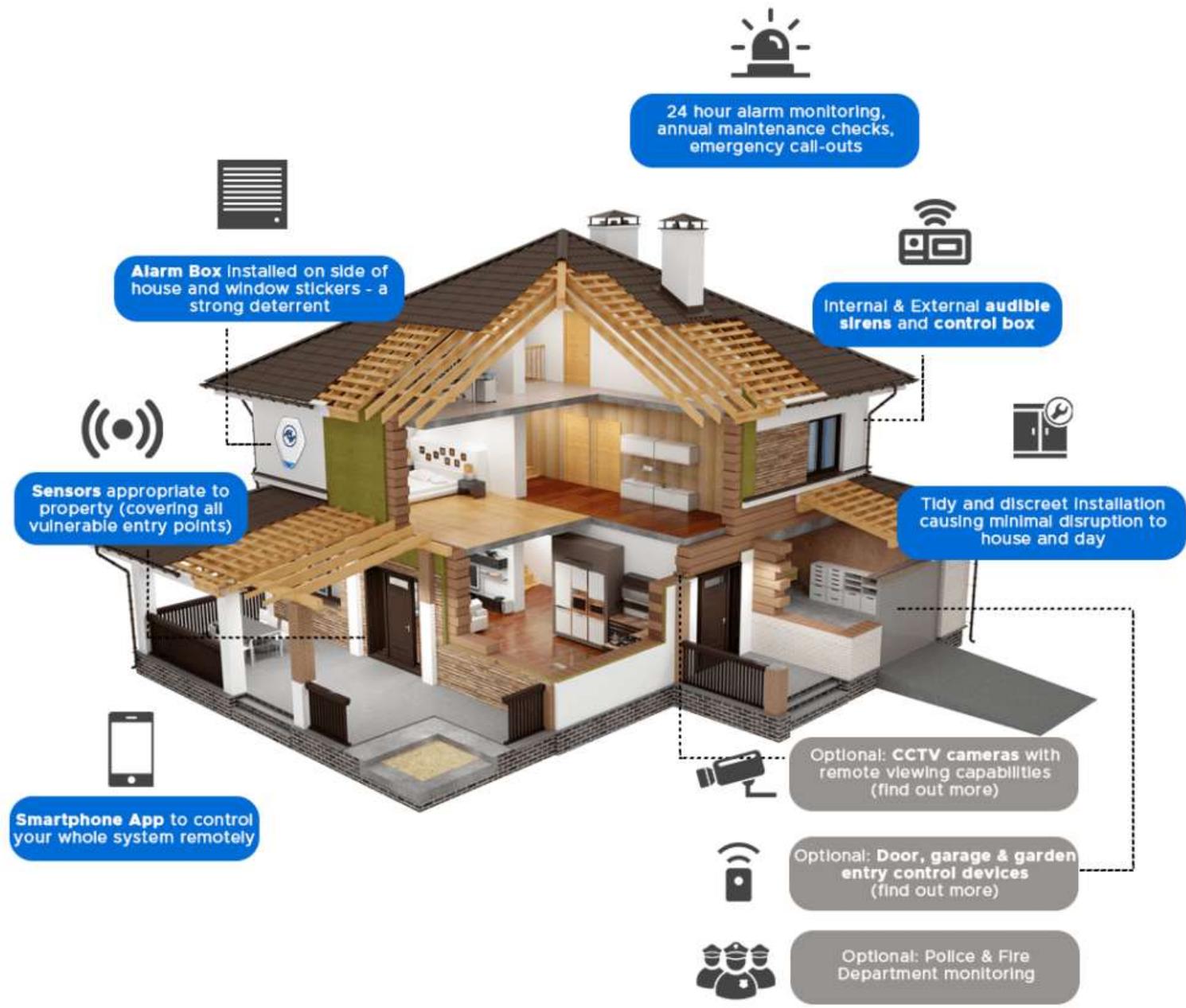


YOUR **PERSONAL  
PHOTOS AND  
DOCUMENTS**



YOUR **FUTURE  
WORKPLACE  
SYSTEMS**

- Cybersecurity is not only an IT problem.
- It is a **daily decision-making skill** for every digital user.



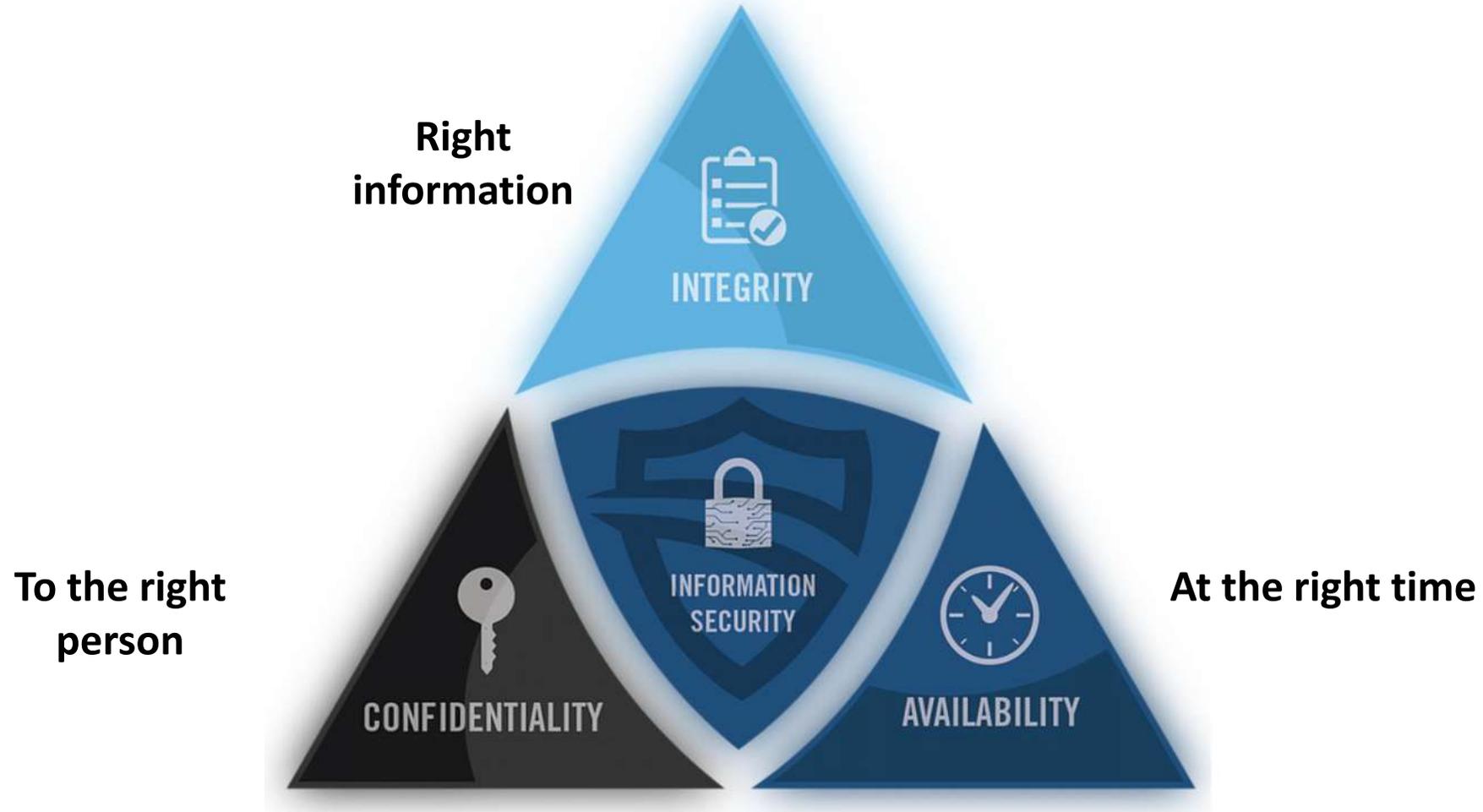
**Information** is an **asset** which like other important business asset, has **value** to an organization and consequently needs to be suitably **protected**.

# Information Security

The **protection** of information and its elements including systems and hardware that use, store and transmit that information.



# Primary Goals of IS (CIA)



# Confidentiality

- Ensuring that the information is accessible only to those authorized to have access
- Achieved by,
  - Password
  - Two-factor authentication
  - Biometric verification
  - Encryption



# Integrity

- Safeguarding the accuracy and completeness of information and processing method
- Achieved by
  - Version control
  - Backups and recovery procedures
  - Checksums & digital signature
  - Encryption



# Availability

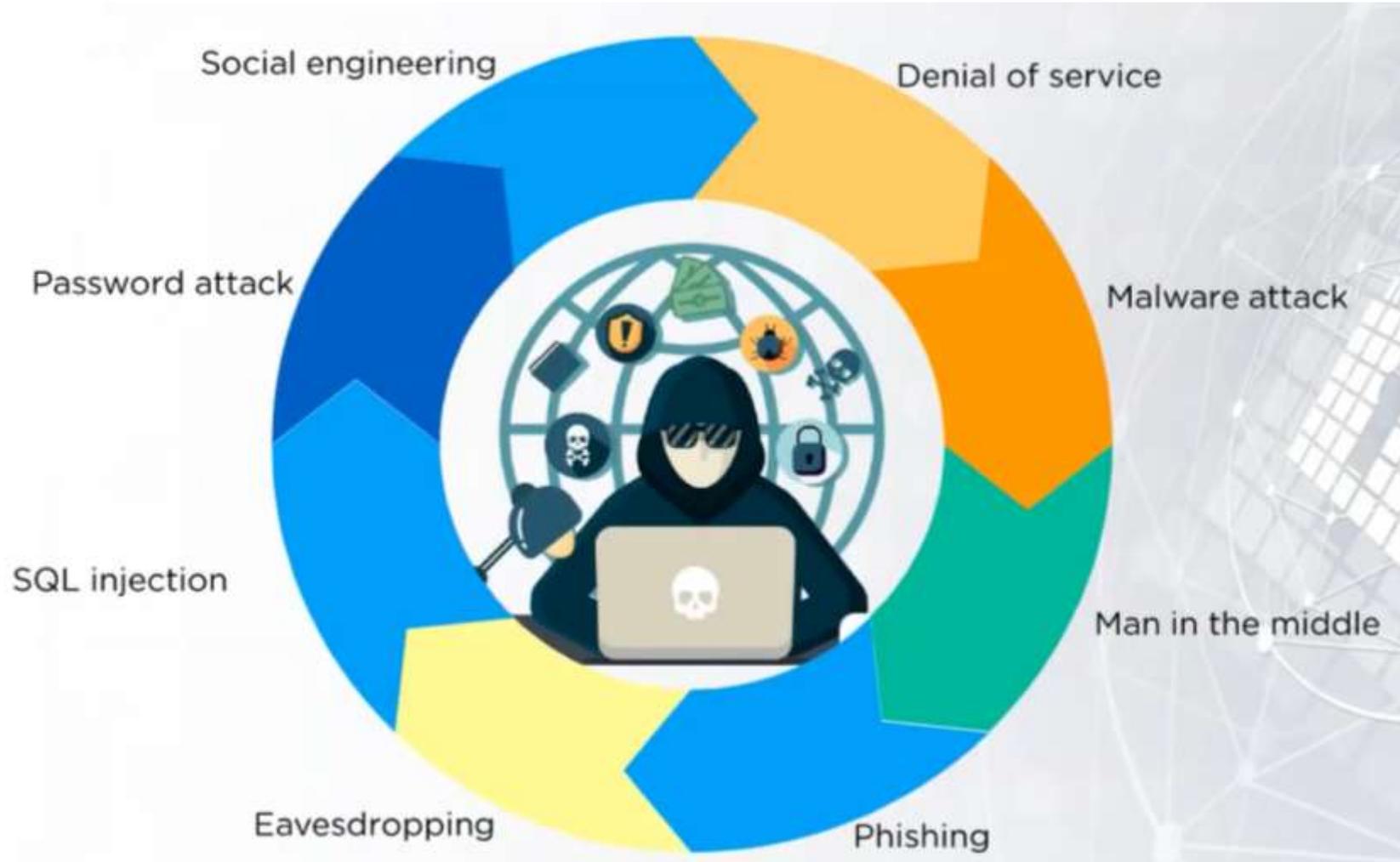
- Ensuring that authorized users have access to information when required
- Achieved by
  - Offsite-backup
  - Redundancy
  - Disaster recovery
  - Proper monitoring
  - Failover



# Security breaches leads to

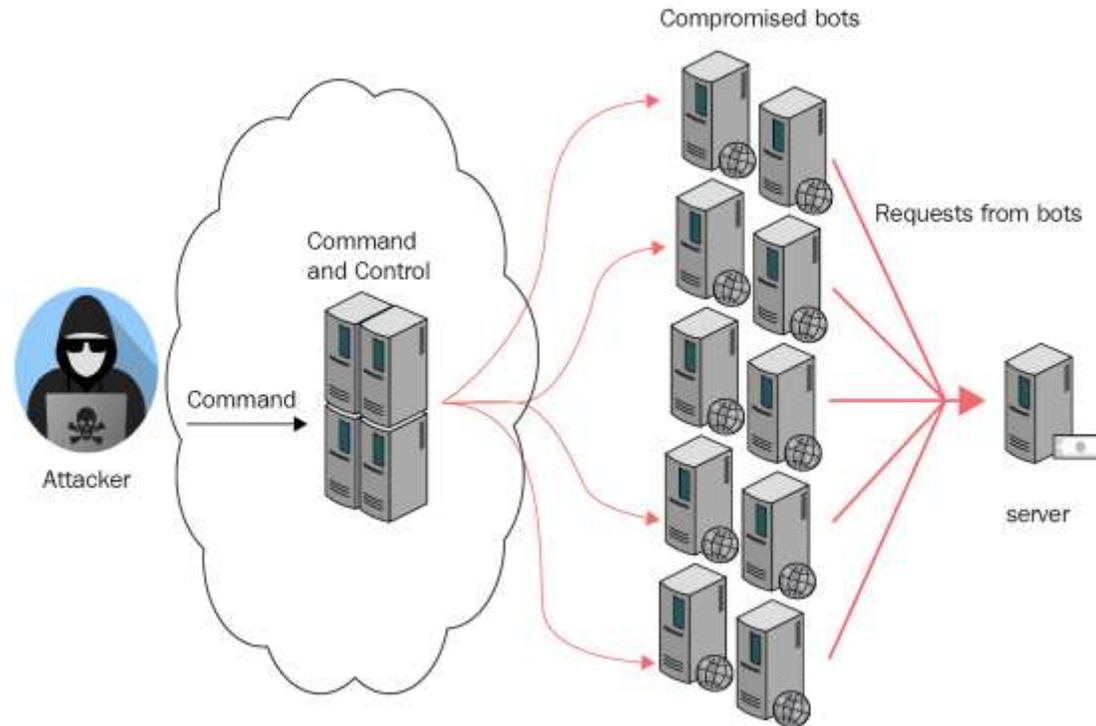
- Reputation loss
- Financial loss
- Intellectual property loss
- Loss of customer confidence
- Business interruption cost

# Types of Attacks



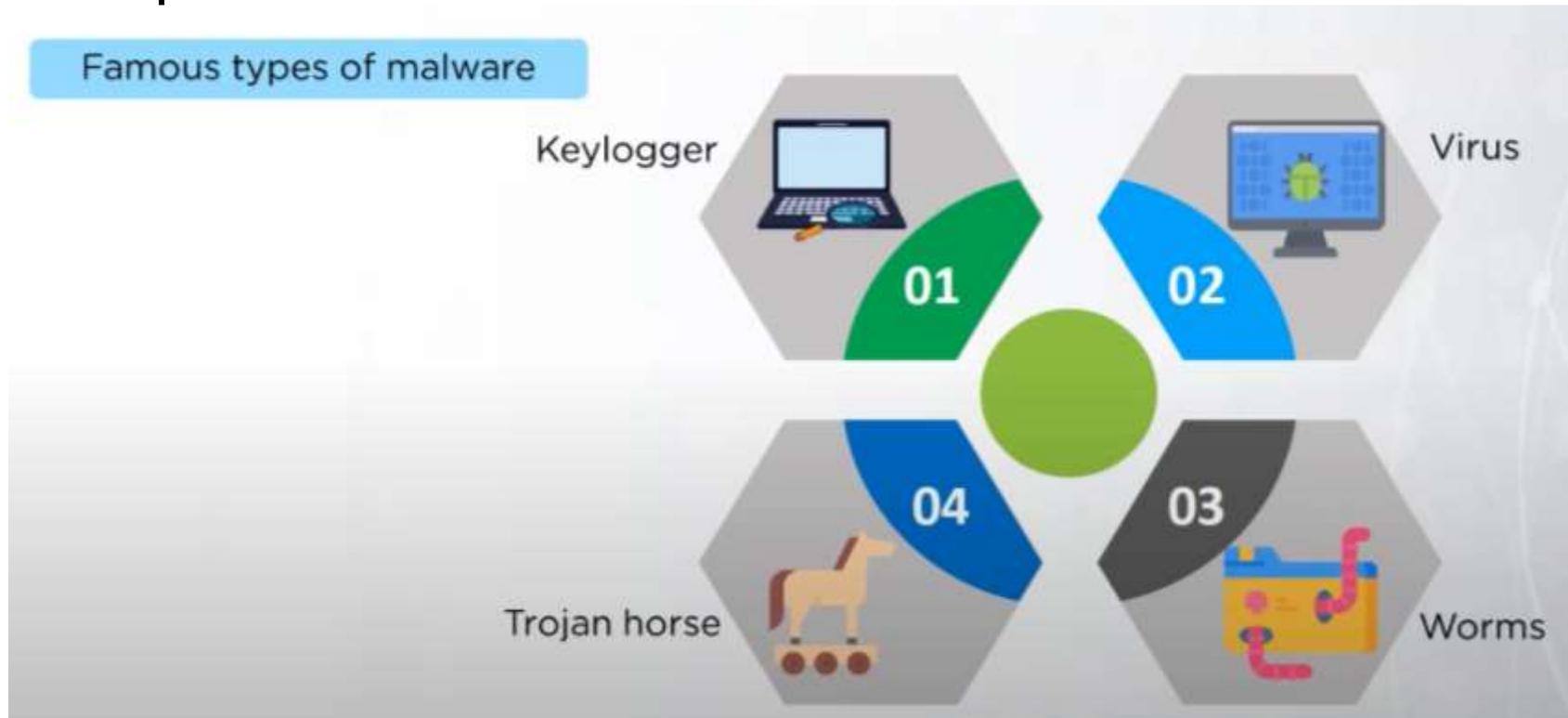
# 1. Denial of Service (DOS Attack)

- Make an **online resource or service unavailable** to its intended users by temporarily or indefinitely by disrupting a host connected to the Internet.



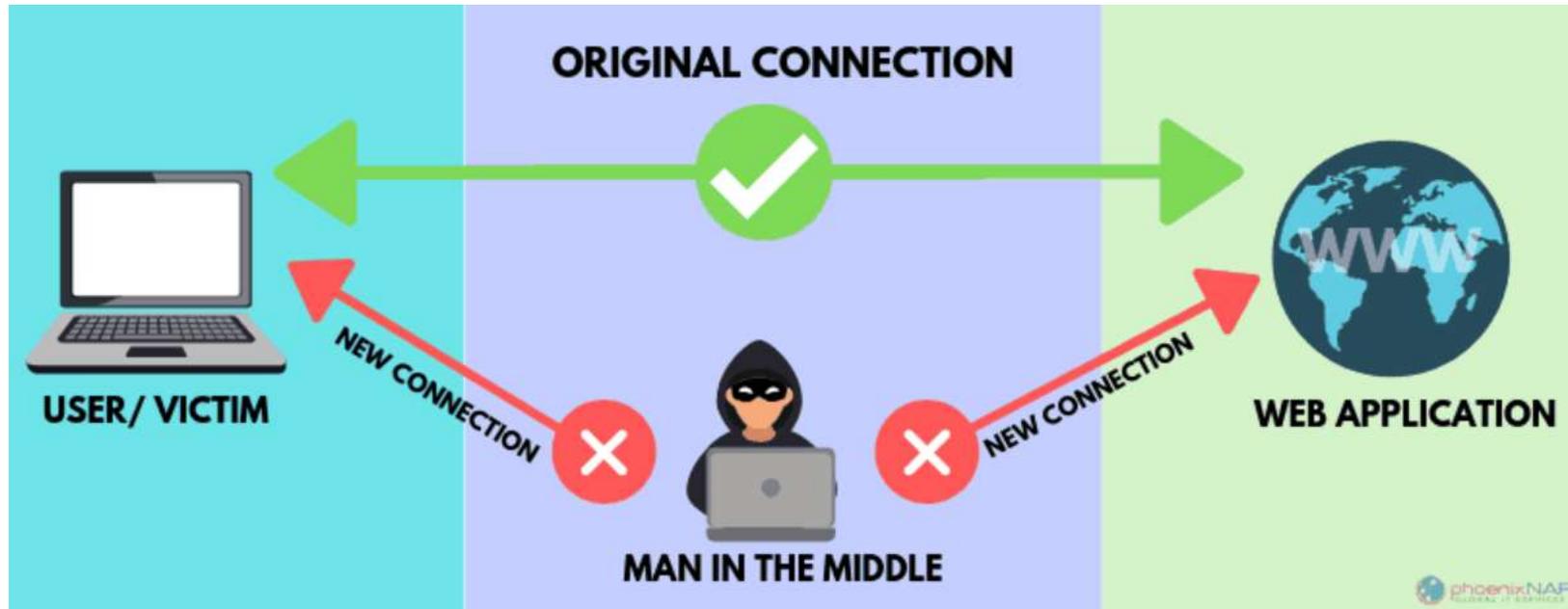
## 2. Malware

- It is a **malicious program** or software that disrupts or damages the computer



# 3. Man in the Middle

- Network-based attack whether the **attacker intercept the communication** or the data flow between victim and the end-point



# 4. Phishing Attack

- Practice of **sending fraudulent communications** that appear to come from a reputable source often in a form of email



**E.g. Email claiming to be from:**

- Bank
- University
- PayPal
- Facebook

**Purpose:**

- steal passwords
- steal credit card info

# Threat Decomposition - Phishing Attacks

Attacker collects email addresses



```
graph TD; A[Attacker collects email addresses] --> B[Creates fake message]; B --> C[Sends link to victim]; C --> D[Victim enters password]; D --> E[Attacker steals account];
```

The diagram illustrates a five-step phishing attack process. Each step is contained within an orange rounded rectangular box, and the boxes are arranged in a descending staircase pattern from top-left to bottom-right. Light orange arrows point downwards from the right side of each box to the top of the next box below it.

Creates fake message

Sends link to victim

Victim enters password

Attacker steals account

**At which step can we stop the attack?**

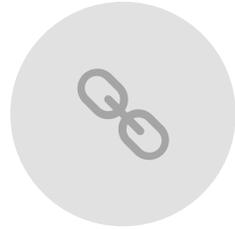
# Pattern Recognition - Phishing Attacks



**URGENT  
LANGUAGE**



**UNKNOWN  
SENDER**



**SUSPICIOUS  
LINKS**



**REQUESTS FOR  
PASSWORDS**



**“YOU WON A  
PRIZE”**

You should learn to **recognize patterns**, not memorize attacks!

# Algorithmic Thinking - Prevention Phishing Attacks

## SAFE EMAIL DECISION ALGORITHM

CHECK SENDER ADDRESS

CHECK URGENCY

HOVER OVER LINK

VERIFY FROM OFFICIAL WEBSITE

IF SUSPICIOUS → DO NOT CLICK

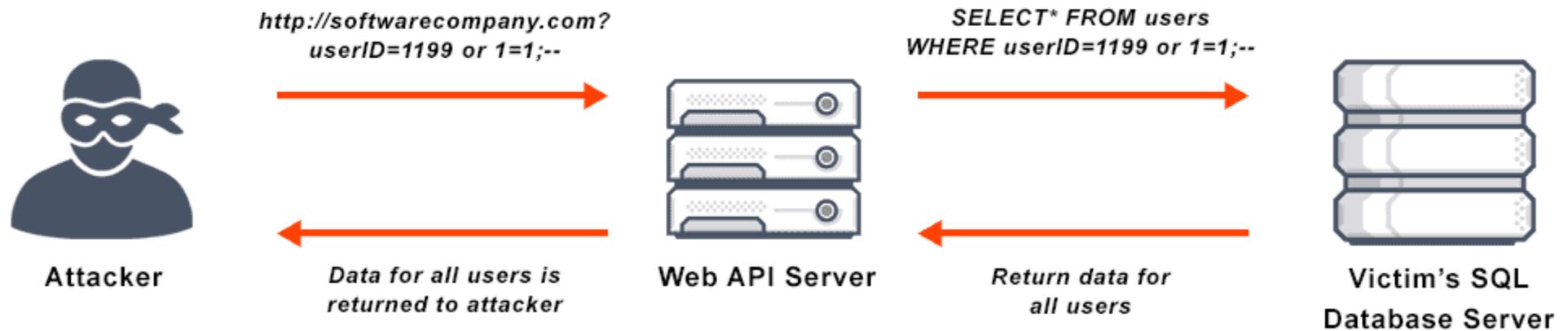
# 5. Eavesdropping

- Attacker **observe the network traffic** in your system
- Example



# 6. SQL Injection

- Attacker **inject malicious input into an SQL statement** retrieve information from a database



# 7. Password Attack

- **Crack or get the password** for user account

- E.g.



Dictionary attack

We use every password that is possible through the dictionary



Brute force

It is a trial and error method used to decode the password or data



Keylogger

keylogger records all the hits on the keyboard

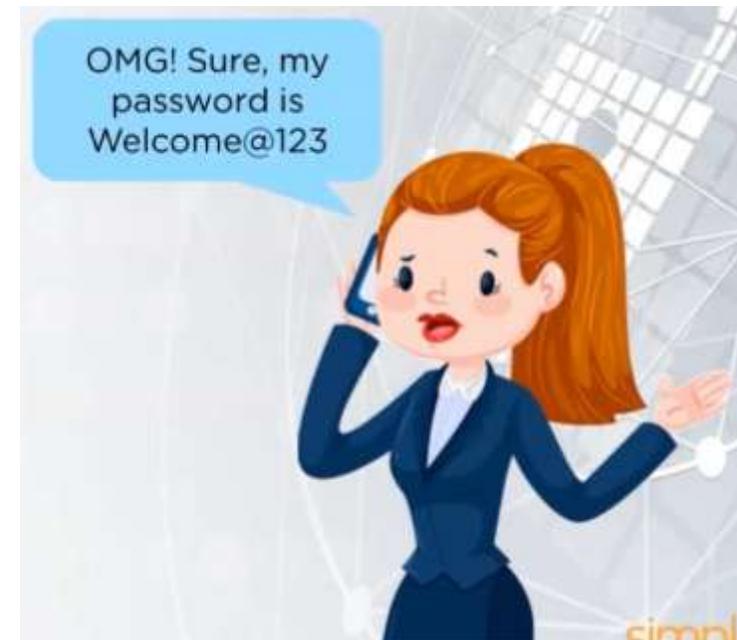


Shoulder surfing

attackers observe the user's keyboard by looking over the user's shoulder

# 8. Social Engineering

- Attackers **create social situations that encourage you to share confidential information**
- Phishing is an example for social engineering attack



How to secure?



# Basic computer security checklist



User is **password** protected



**OS** is updated



Download software from reputable sources



**Antivirus** or antimalware is installed



Terminate unusual services running that consumes resources



**Firewall** is on

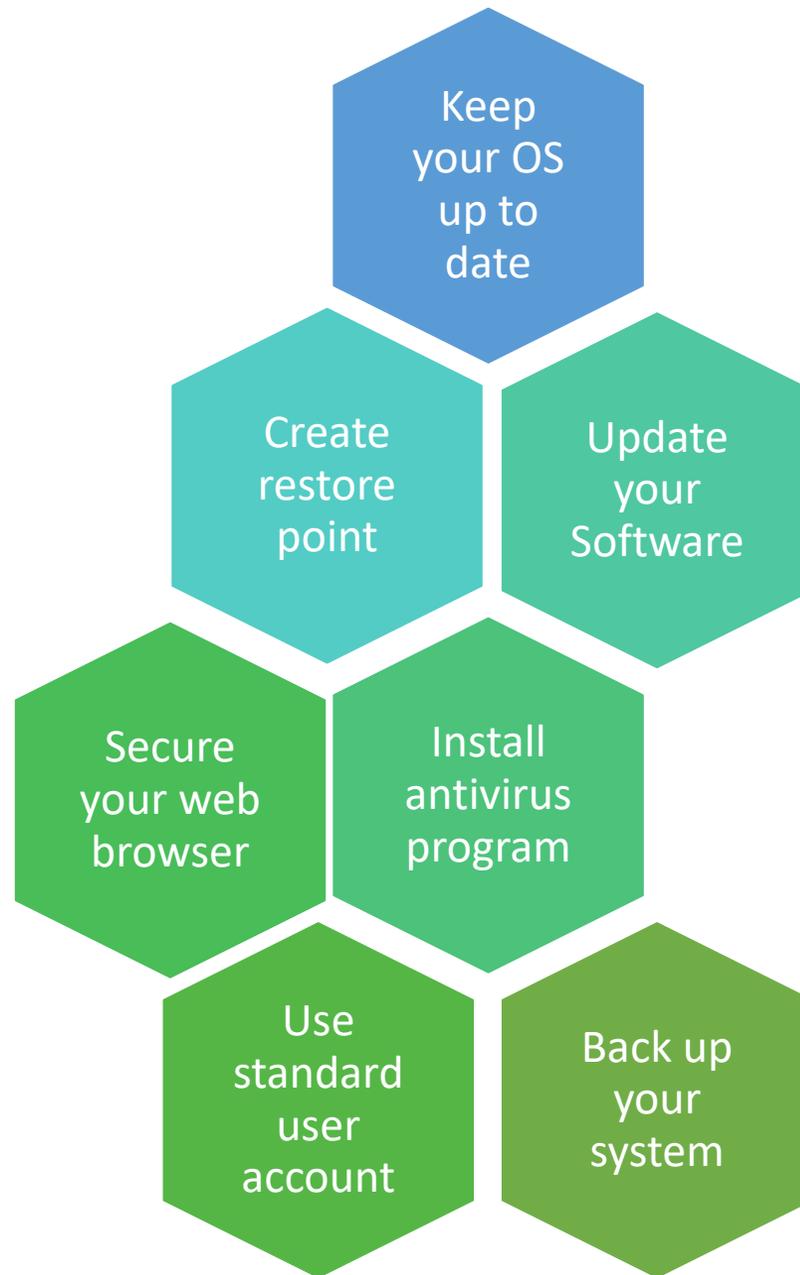


Clear private data from web browsers



Backup regularly

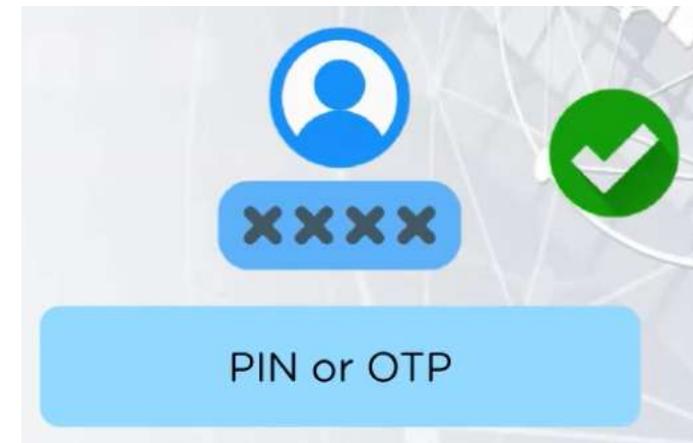
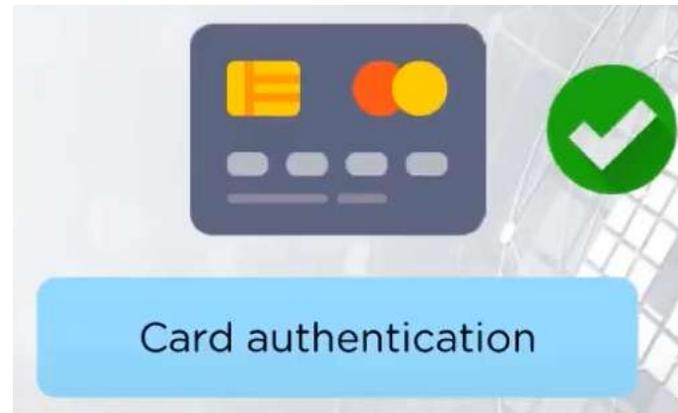
# Secure your OS



# 2-factor authentication

- Adds **layer of security to the authentication process** by making it harder for attacker to gain access to a person's device or online accounts

For example: When you do online payment



# Secure Password

- Create strong passwords so that no one will be able to remember/crack
- A good password should
  - not contain your basic details (name, birthdate, mobile number etc)
  - Contain at least 8 characters
  - Be combination of upper and lower case
  - Contain numbers and special characters
  - Be randomized

# Antivirus

- Computer program that **prevent, detection** and **remove malware**
- Install an Antivirus and keep it up to date



# Firewall

- A firewall is software or firmware that **prevents unauthorized access to a network**
- The barrier that sits between a private internal network and the public Internet
- The main purpose is to **allow non-threatening traffic in and to keep dangerous traffic out**



Thank You!