

The Cuckoo's Egg by Cliff Stoll

Reading Questions

AP CSP
Summer 2017
Date Due: 8/10/17

Read the book "The Cuckoo's Egg" by Cliff Stoll. As you read through the book, answer the following reading questions. These answers do not need to be long and involved, but they do need to follow two rules:

- 1) They need to be in well-written, well thought out English! No incomplete phrases or IM-speak please!
- 2) The answers do NOT need to be long, but need to be enough to show me that you've **READ** and **UNDERSTOOD** the core of the book.

Chapter 1:

How did Cliff end up at Lawrence Berkeley Labs (LBL)?

What was the problem that Cliff was asked to investigate in his first week?

Towards the end of the chapter, Cliff talks about clock drift. What is clock drift? Does your computer experience clock drift? How might you fix this problem?

Chapter 2:

What is a super user?

What is the super user account name on a Windows machine?

Do you know the password for the super user account on your Windows machine?

Chapter 3:

One baud means 1 bit per second. 8 bits equals a byte. How many bytes per second did the modem used by the hacker operate at?

How many bytes per second does a modern phone modem operate at?

How many bytes per second does a cable modem operate at?

Chapter 4:

Why is the book called the Cuckoo's Egg? What is a Cuckoo's egg?

Chapter 5:

Why did Cliff's boss feel that the hacker wasn't local college student?

Chapter 6:

After reading this chapter, do you think the hacker is a local college student?

Chapter 7:

What coast (East or West) does Cliff now think the hacker is from and why?

Chapter 8:

What is MILNET?

Scared yet?

Chapter 8:

What is a Trojan Horse program?

Chapter 9:

Why is having one dominant operating system, like Windows such a bad idea?

Chapter 10:

What does the term "robbing the dead" mean?

Chapter 12:

Default passwords are dangerous in the hands of naive computer users. ORACLE, the most popular database system in the world, used by hundreds of thousands of companies across the world STILL ship a default user id of: SYSTEM. What do you think the default password is?

Chapter 13:

Why won't the phone company tell Cliff the name of the hacker?

Chapter 15:

What is Dockmaster?

What does the NSA do?

Chapter 17:

What is Kermit?

How did Cliff use Kermit to determine the hacker's location?

Chapter 18:

Why does Cliff believe he's dealing with a professional hacker, not a college student?

Chapter 19:

Why does Cliff think the hacker might be German?

Chapter 20:

What account and password did the hacker use to break into the ELEXSI computer?

What is UUCP?

Chapter 23:

As Cliff traces the hacker through the network, he discovers that the hacker is connecting through a company just a few miles from the CIA's main headquarters in MacLean, Virginia. When Cliff talks to the CIA about this, the CIA gets very upset. Why?

Chapter 25:

On a Sunday morning, Cliff tries to break into Mitre's network and computer systems. What does he discover about one of the Mitre computers, Aerovax?

Chapter 27:

What further evidence does Cliff have that the hacker is a professional?

Chapter 28:

Why does Cliff think the hacker might be from Europe?

Chapter 29:

How does Cliff figure out definitively that the hacker is coming from Europe?

Chapter 30:

Where is the hacker from?

Chapter 31:

Why was the hacker so interested in modifying the telnet and rlogin computer programs on Cliff's computer system?

Chapter 32:

A hacker can delete files and generally trash a computer system, but what other kind of damage can a hacker do, according to Bob the system administrator?

Chapter 36:

What did Cliff want the NSA to do for him and why?

Chapter 37:

Why would a user prefer a land based cable network over a satellite network?

Chapter 40:

Frustrated by the lack of government help, Cliff and his girlfriend devise a two part plan to nail the hacker. What is the plan?

Chapter 44:

Scared yet?

Chapter 45:

Who is Bob Morris? Why is he so interested in what Cliff has been doing?

Chapter 46:

How does Cliff prove to himself that the hacker is a spy?

What is a very bad place to place wet sneakers?

Chapter 47:

What is a dictionary password attack? Why is your SISNET password not found in the dictionary?

Chapter 53:

Cliff's new cube-mate Darren, thinks that Cliff is an old fart for worrying about hackers... what does Cliff believe is the fundamental problem with hacking?

Chapter 54:

What is the name of the hacker?

Why did the hacker break into all of these systems?

Epilogue:

What's the difference between a virus and a worm?

Cliff gets an awkward call from his friend Bob Morris. Bob knows who created the nasty internet worm but won't tell Cliff. Who created the worm?

Do you think that the worm's author intended to cause millions of dollars of damage to the 2000+ computers that were infected?

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