

Week 2 Theme: Why Me?

CYBER
AWARENESS
MONTH

Cybercriminals and the Long Game



Why the Long Game?

Cybercrime often work in organized groups that are distributed, professional, commercial and big business.

Cybercriminals play a very long game running schemes that may play out over many months and possibly years hoping that people will forget or not make associations between what might appear as distinct events.

Hackers will often be patient and lay the groundwork months in advance waiting weeks or months for a particularly opportune moment to infect a system with ransomware.

In some cases, it is more lucrative for attackers to lie in wait and do reconnaissance undetected on the device or network collecting valuable, sensitive and personal information. This information may be aggregated over time, be sold on the Dark Web, used for identity theft, used for targeted phishing or used for extortion as individuals move into more important positions or as students move into higher education.



What you need to know

Your device or network could be compromised without you realizing it. **The good news is that you can avoid being a target or victim of cybercriminals by always adopting good cyber security and cyber hygiene practices, and always being diligent about protecting your personal information and what you share online.**

Internet users have long relied on encryption for security and peace of mind, to protect end-to-end communication and protect sensitive data. Today's widely used advanced encryption is safe from today's hackers but is potentially vulnerable to hackers of the future because of quantum computing.

Cybercriminals might exploit this vulnerability by stealing encrypted data and holding onto it, sometimes for decades while waiting for quantum computers to become widespread enough to decrypt the stored data.

