

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Guide: So you want to be a white hat/ethical hacker?](#)

phybe? - January 9, 2014, 3:09 pm

[img]http://i.minus.com/iliprJo4dW3tq.png[/img]

[img]http://i.minus.com/iFVezNQiel6Q9.png[/img]

[img]http://i.minus.com/jid5oVRorCLFC.jpg[/img]

[img]http://i.minus.com/ictlOWsQAavJW.png[/img]

I've seen many members post threads asking how/where to get started as a white hat so I decided to create this brief thread so that members could refer to it for assistance.

First off, what is a "white hat" hacker?

I'm sure most of you know but for those of you who are unfamiliar with the term, it's a term used to describe an ethical computer hacker. Rather than having malicious intentions like a black hat hacker, a white hat hacker helps to improve security. The term actually comes from old Western movies where it was common for the good guys to wear a white cowboy hat and bad guys to wear black ones.

White hat hackers specialize in a variety of skills which include but are not limited to the following:
Penetration testing/Network security

Malware analysis

Website security

Reverse engineering

Social engineering

[img]http://i.minus.com/iMFhpMoYBfyJv.png[/img]

Well first off, it's legal. You don't have to worry about being caught/punished for your actions UNLESS you don't ask permission in which case it would technically classify as "black hat". Whenever you are doing white hat work, you must always make sure you ask permission to conduct whatever it is you are doing so that the client is aware. This distinguishes it from being black hat.

The computer security industry is not only lucrative but rapidly growing. As technology becomes more and more dominant in our everyday lives, companies are looking for computer security specialists to help keep their business secure. Huge companies have suffered from security breaches in the past which have cost them millions in damage. If you are truly passionate about IT security, there are plenty of jobs out there for you.

[img]http://i.minus.com/ibrLthdEVeVGeF.png[/img]

Here is a list of terms that are common in the white hat world:

Penetration testing: A method of evaluating computer/network security by simulating attacks both external/internal - To learn more about Penetration testing, visit the [Pentesting and Forensics](#) forum on HF

Exploit: Taking advantage of a security vulnerability

Social Engineering: Using human psychology skills to manipulate and retrieve information from people(this can be used to access confidential information)

Reverse engineering: Essentially breaking down software/code in order to analyze and understand it

I will continue adding to this list.

[img]<http://i.minus.com/iLxMcZEso88Bn.png>[/img]

All getting started really involves is educating yourself.

There is no magical button that will turn you into a white hat hacker overnight or anything of that sort. It starts off as a decision. The decision is simply to conduct your online activities in an ethical manner . Yes, this means you might have to give up ratting and messing around with botnets and booters, sorry kids. After you make the decision, you can start converting your old ways into helping people rather than "hurting" them. This could range anywhere from helping out in the White Hat help section or anywhere a member may require help. Of course this isn't limited to just this forum or online, you could help friends and family with their computer issues as well.

Programming and its role in Ethical Hacking

People always ask is it necessary to learn how to program to "hack" or be good? Short answer: YES. Sure, you might be able to pull off some basic tricks and attacks without any advanced programming experience but to truly be considered a security expert, you must understand how programming works.

Learning how to program is vital to ethical hacking and hacking in general as well. Being able to pick apart different code(s) and understand how it works will be highly beneficial. For website security, I would recommend learning: PHP , HTML , Javascript, ASP.NET. For application security, C, C++, Python, Unix/Linux and Assembly language.

Like I said, it's not an overnight transformation. Over time, you will begin to pick up different pieces of information that will help you help others.

[img]<http://i.minus.com/isDfeEhepj7Og.png>[/img]

Here are a couple of resources I would recommend reading to get familiar with the White Hat scene:

[Hacking for Beginners](#)

[How to Become an Ethical Hacker](#)

[Tech Ebooks on Information Security](#)

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There are also various programs out there which you can take to learn about ethical hacking. Most do cost money but you can find some free material online.

A popular one is the Certified Ethical Hacker training course:

<https://www.eccouncil.org/Certification/certified-ethical-hacker>

This course provides you with up to date material and methods to learn how to conduct ethical hacking.

I've also compiled a bunch of Ethical Hacking resources I've gathered over time into a .rar which you are free to download:

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/62670295/Ethical%20Hacking%20resources.rar>

I know some of the material is outdated but some concepts still apply and you can use it to find more recent versions.

[img]<http://i.minus.com/jid5oVRorCLFC.jpg>[/img]

I will update this thread frequently so please feel free to leave feedback/suggestions and I'd be more than happy to include information I deem worthy.

Aura - January 9, 2014, 3:13 pm

Holy what a tutorial Phyber, it was time for you to do something ! ?

First post so tell me if you ever want me to delete it so you can grab this spot.

phybe? - January 9, 2014, 3:14 pm

(Jan 9, 2014 04:13 PM)Aur? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Holy what a tutorial Phyber, it was time for you to do something ! ?

First post so tell me if you ever want me to delete it so you can grab this spot.

Haha kind of a brief thread but I covered what I thought was most important for the time being. Will continue to update it.

And thanks :)

N1251 - January 9, 2014, 3:22 pm

Thank you for this tutorial. What programming language is more commonly used overall? Which should i learn first? I have books on social engineering and manipulation techniques, so that parts sorta covered already.

phybe? - January 9, 2014, 3:25 pm

(Jan 9, 2014 04:22 PM)N1251 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thank you for this tutorial. What programming language is more commonly used overall? Which should i learn first? I have books on social engineering and manipulation techniques, so that parts sorta covered already.

Well it depends on if you are referring to website security or application security since it would differ. There isn't really an "overall" language I would recommend since it all depends on which path you are leaning towards.

N1251 - January 9, 2014, 4:11 pm

(Jan 9, 2014 04:25 PM)phybe? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Well it depends on if you are referring to website

security or application security since it would differ. There isn't really an "overall" language I would recommend since it all depends on which path you are leaning towards.

I was thinking sort of a pen tester path. I have books on c++ language and python, which one should I pick? Which would be easier? Which would have more overall benefit? ?

phuqer - January 9, 2014, 7:26 pm

Python would be much easier to learn, and you can start here <http://www.codecademy.com/>

C/C++ would probably be more beneficial, as it would make learning other languages easier as well.

@OP well written post.

V3gapUnk - January 10, 2014, 3:02 am

I want to be a student ... of white hat hacker . Cool! Phyber!

Gustav. - January 10, 2014, 5:23 am

Like I said before on Skype; be sure to add more information and all that good stuff. But overall, this guide is something members considering to become White hat should look into.

phybe? - January 10, 2014, 8:50 am

(Jan 9, 2014 05:11 PM)N1251 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I was thinking sort of a pen tester path. I have books on c++ language and python, which one should I pick? Which would be easier? Which would have more overall benefit? ?

Exactly what phuqer said above.

That's what I'd recommend as well.

PongViking - January 10, 2014, 8:54 am

Very nice tutorial.

Thank you very much for this.

Corso - January 10, 2014, 9:38 am

Nice little read, :(no mentions in it lol - anyway good start man, can't wait to see you keep adding.

Pickles12 - January 10, 2014, 5:00 pm

GREAT TUTORIAL! I almost feel like a hacker now ?

Jagster™ - January 21, 2014, 3:28 pm

Nice thread phybe?, some good links in there. Hopefully others will leave the DarkSide to join us =)

17ROLL - January 25, 2014, 2:08 am

Thank you for this, was an interesting read! Will keep checking this thread for updates.

VIPR? - February 19, 2014, 2:21 am

Great thread. Thanks a lot for the resources ?

Dorrance - February 19, 2014, 1:54 pm

Very useful for beginners for white hatting on internet

Effexion - February 24, 2014, 5:23 am

Very nice. Thanks for pointing this out for me. Time to start that long journey ?.

ven0m - February 24, 2014, 5:25 am

Not sure how I missed this tutorial but thank you very much for writing this in detail. :)

Marshall Mathers - March 3, 2014, 11:05 am

Really Nice TUT bro. :)

Kind regards

Kenny

Jai999 - March 17, 2014, 11:22 am

Can you recommend some blogs to follow? Also can you recommend some books on website security? Thanks for this.

suwxy - March 22, 2014, 8:43 am

Why would a white hat need to know social engineering when they're suppose to directly ask there clients about background info directly? Unless you're using black box methods for pentesting, then you're a grey hat.

Also being a white hat doesn't make everything you do %100 legal.

phybe? - March 25, 2014, 12:11 pm

(Mar 17, 2014 11:22 AM)Jai999 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Can you recommend some blogs to follow? Also can you recommend some books on website security? Thanks for this.

I don't know of any blogs off the top of my head unfortunately and there are some resources in my thread you can feel free to look at.

(Mar 22, 2014 08:43 AM)illilli DU?STEP illilli Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Why would a white hat need to know social engineering when they're suppose to directly ask there clients about background info directly? Unless you're using black box methods for pentesting, then you're a grey hat.

Also being a white hat doesn't make everything you do %100 legal.

Social engineering is a tactic that white hats may use to extract information from a company's employees to see how vulnerable they are.

And I don't recall stating that being a white hat means everything you do is 100% legal.

Aura - March 25, 2014, 12:15 pm

(Mar 25, 2014 12:11 PM)phybe? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I don't know of any blogs off the top of my head unfortunately and there are some resources in my thread you can feel free to look at.

Social engineering is a tactic that white hats may use to extract information from a company's employees to see how vulnerable they are.

And I don't recall stating that being a white hat means everything you do is 100% legal.

This.

Being a White Hat also means that you don't abuse your skills and knowledge in a situation where you could. Let's see you do a security check up on a website that you don't know the owner of, a random website and that you notice that there'S a way to exploit that website via let's see a permanent XSS vulnerability. Your next action will determine if you're either a Black Hat or a White Hat. If you use that vulnerability to deface the website or exploit it in any way, you're a Black Hat. If you report these vulnerabilities to the owner and even send him information on how to fix them, you could be considered as a White Hat. It's the difference between exploiting and helping.

munio - March 26, 2014, 12:28 am

This tutorial is awesome, thank-you for sharing it with us!
R35P3CT?

Strixk - March 26, 2014, 11:48 am

This tutorial is really good! I wish there was more tutorials like this.

Thanks!

EliteTM - March 26, 2014, 9:24 pm

Very well write Phyber. All though this is most likely my first time reading any of your posts. I must say I learned a thing or two reading this.

TAC2 - April 15, 2014, 12:12 pm

What font did you use for the white hat picture? It looks awesome!

phybe? - April 15, 2014, 3:13 pm

(Apr 15, 2014 12:12 PM)TAC2 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What font did you use for the white hat picture? It looks awesome!

Unfortunately I don't remember to be honest, sorry :/

lamSixxx - April 15, 2014, 4:47 pm

Pretty much helpful to me .

I used to work for a cooporation schooling their tech-guys about blackhat stuff in order to prevent things from happening.

Therefor I find it great by you to do something good for this website,

Good job :)

phybe? Jr. - April 15, 2014, 7:42 pm

(Apr 15, 2014 12:12 PM)TAC2 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What font did you use for the white hat picture? It looks awesome!

My closest guess would be Alright Sans.

[img]http://www.identifont.com/samples/okaytype/AlrightSans.gif[/img]

Or Abandon

[img]http://www.identifont.com/samples/suomi/Abandon.gif[/img]

?A.J? - April 16, 2014, 8:17 am

Great tutorial but I was expecting more resources.
I'd appreciate it if you add more in the future ?

phybe? - April 16, 2014, 8:19 am

(Apr 16, 2014 08:17 AM)?urak Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Great tutorial but I was expecting more resources.
I'd appreciate it if you add more in the future ?

This link I posted has a good amount of material:

<http://www.freotechbooks.com/information-security-f52.html>

?A.J? - April 16, 2014, 8:22 am

(Apr 16, 2014 08:19 AM)phybe? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This link I posted has a good amount of material:

<http://www.freotechbooks.com/information-security-f52.html>

Well, that looks great.

Thanks ?.

Austerity - April 17, 2014, 2:41 am

Thanks for this thread brother, really helped me out.

Belgian - April 18, 2014, 3:43 am

Great and HQ tutorial, OP.

Will help out some members.

HelloHowAreYou - April 21, 2014, 3:01 am

Thanks for this tutorial, I like it.

'Psyduck - April 22, 2014, 4:50 am

Really nice tutorial man!

But is it possible that you can explain grayhat? I've heard it before.

Kind regards,

Brainstorm

memocool - May 21, 2014, 5:08 am

10/10 amazing tutorial bro this one really helped me to understand the basics should i study . Bravo :)

UltimateCrimson - May 31, 2014, 8:42 pm

Nice post, I can see that you spent quite a bit of time on this.

Aura - May 31, 2014, 9:35 pm

Hey Phyber, someone copy/pasted your tutorial and posted it on a website in the section I mod. Junking this shit there.

phybe? - June 1, 2014, 11:39 am

(May 31, 2014 09:35 PM)Aur? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Hey Phyber, someone copy/pasted your tutorial and posted it on a website in the section I mod. Junking this shit there.

Thanks for letting me know and taking action, love you Aura <3

Kuwabara_Kuwabara - June 5, 2014, 5:41 pm

Hi, I'm new on HF, thanks for your little tutorial. :)

Oak. - June 14, 2014, 11:42 am

I saw this in your signature and I thought I would check it out. I am actually pretty happy I did and it will help me on my journey to become a whitehat.

tunechi28 - July 22, 2014, 1:56 pm

This kind of detailed and all-aspect touching tutorial can only come from none other than phybe?. Thanks for this, sir. Pointed out some facts for me.

Machiavellian101 - July 22, 2014, 4:52 pm

This is an awesome thread and very well laid out. 10 out of 10. :)

Aura - July 23, 2014, 4:57 am

So Phyber, will we ever see a Part II for this tutorial ? ?

phybe? - July 23, 2014, 5:12 am

(Jul 23, 2014 04:57 AM)Aur? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) So Phyber, will we ever see a Part II for this tutorial ? ?
Tell me what you'd like to see in Part II then sure :)

Aura - July 23, 2014, 5:20 am

(Jul 23, 2014 05:12 AM)phybe? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Tell me what you'd like to see in Part II then sure :)
Adding more definitions would be a nice start eh ?

apollofire - July 23, 2014, 6:26 am

Nice article.. Easy to understand few basics

whitehatrat - October 27, 2014, 3:19 am

Good post! Looking to be a white hat, it's my passion to learn more about security.

MaxThePro - October 27, 2014, 3:27 am

Thanks so much for posting this tutorial OP! Great to see some people really wanting to help the community out!