

# Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Top 5 Mistakes New Hackers Make](#)

??????????? - August 29, 2025, 5:08 am

## Top 5 Mistakes New Hackers Make (And How to Avoid Them)

### Introduction

Hacking attracts thousands of new learners every year. Some come from programming, some from gaming, others from pure curiosity. But no matter the background, almost every beginner repeats the same mistakes. These errors slow down learning, cause endless frustration, and in some cases, create real legal risks.

In this guide, I will go over the five most common mistakes I see new hackers make, explain why they are harmful, and provide practical steps to avoid them. Whether you are brand new or already a few months into your journey, this thread will help you build a stronger foundation.

### Mistake #1: Skipping the Basics

Beginners often dive straight into advanced exploits or complex tools like Metasploit, Burp Suite, or custom scripts they find online. They copy/paste commands without understanding what's happening.

#### Why it's a problem:

If you don't understand how computers talk to each other, how services run, or what protocols like TCP/UDP/HTTP actually mean, you're just pushing buttons. You won't know why an exploit worked, and worse, you won't know why it failed.

#### Real Example:

A beginner tries to run a Metasploit exploit on a web app. It fails because the target runs HTTPS, but they don't even know what SSL/TLS is. Instead of debugging, they just quit or look for another "ready-made" hack.

**Fix:** Study the TCP/IP model (layers, ports, protocols). Free resources like "TCP/IP Illustrated" or online network courses help.

Learn to navigate Linux and Windows command lines. A hacker without shell skills is handicapped.

Practice with Nmap and Wireshark. Learn what a SYN scan is, what a 3-way handshake looks like, and how to identify open services.

### Mistake #2: Using Illegal Targets

Many beginners think scanning random IPs or trying to break into real websites is "practice." This is

a huge mistake.

Why it's a problem:

You are attacking systems you don't own. Even a single unauthorized Nmap scan can technically be seen as illegal in some regions. At best, your ISP notices and flags your account. At worst, you get a letter from law enforcement.

Real Example:

A beginner runs a brute force tool against a university login page. The university's SOC detects it immediately. Logs show their home IP. A simple hobby suddenly becomes a criminal investigation.

Fix: Always build your own hacking lab (VirtualBox, VMware, vulnerable machines).

Use legal platforms such as [TryHackMe](#), [HackTheBox](#), or [OverTheWire](#).

Download intentionally vulnerable systems like Metasploitable or DVWA.

### Mistake #3: Relying Only on Tools

Too many beginners treat hacking as a shopping list of tools: Nmap, Hydra, Burp Suite, Metasploit. They think installing Kali Linux instantly makes them a hacker.

Why it's a problem:

Tools are just shortcuts for things you should already understand. If you don't know how they work, you're powerless when they break or produce confusing output.

Real Example:

A beginner runs `Code hydra -l admin -P passwords.txt ftp://target`. It fails because the target uses SSH, not FTP. Without protocol knowledge, they can't troubleshoot.

Fix: Pick a tool you like (e.g., Nmap) and learn what it does internally. Read its documentation, learn about TCP flags, packet crafting, etc.

Write your own simple scripts in Python or Bash. Example: code your own port scanner with the `Code socket` library.

Understand the difference between automation and knowledge. Tools are multipliers of skill, not replacements for it.

### Mistake #4: Ignoring Documentation and Notes

When learning, many beginners "try stuff" without recording what worked. They forget commands, lose track of results, and repeat mistakes endlessly.

Why it's a problem:

Hacking is research-heavy. Professionals build detailed notes, so they can repeat success and avoid wasting time. Without documentation, you'll hit the same wall again and again.

Real Example:

A beginner scans a box and finds port 3306 open. They Google "MySQL exploit," but next week, they forget everything they tried. They end up repeating the same Google search without progressing.

Fix: Start a hacking journal. It can be a text file, a Notion page, or even a physical notebook.

Log every scan, exploit attempt, command, and result.

Build a personal "playbook" of commands and techniques.

## Mistake #5: Chasing Shortcuts and Quick Wins

Many beginners look for "one-click hacks," YouTube "instant root" videos, or magic scripts. This is the script-kiddie path.

Why it's a problem:

Shortcuts don't teach you anything. You get temporary dopamine, but no growth. Communities notice and don't respect this approach.

Real Example:

A beginner downloads a "hack tool" from a shady site. Not only does it not work, but it also installs a RAT (remote access trojan) on their own system. Instead of hacking others, they become the victim.

Fix: Be skeptical of "instant hacks" or "leaked tools." 90% are scams or malware.

Focus on fundamentals: networking, web apps, scripting, operating systems.

Balance theory + practice. Learn why something works, not just how.

## Conclusion

Hacking is not about tools, shortcuts, or illegal fun. It's about understanding how systems work, how they break, and how to fix or exploit them.

If you avoid these 5 mistakes, skipping basics, using illegal targets, relying only on tools, ignoring documentation, and chasing shortcuts, you'll progress faster and earn real respect.

Which of these mistakes did you make when starting out, and how did you overcome it?

6 - August 29, 2025, 5:11 am

My mistake when i first got caught was bragging to the ISP that I DDoSed that i have DDoSed them and that too without any precautions or anonymity, took them some time but i was picked up by a

government agent and had to pay losses.

???????????? - August 29, 2025, 5:12 am

(Aug 29, 2025 05:11 AM)6 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) My mistake when i first got caught was bragging to the ISP that I DDoSed that i have DDoSed them and that too without any precautions or anonymity, took them some time but i was picked up by a government agent and had to pay losses.  
This must had been in your early stages.

6 - August 29, 2025, 5:13 am

(Aug 29, 2025 05:12 AM)??????? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This must had been in your early stages.  
Yeah when i was literally 9, it was the time of shell booters and putty booters haha

Now the DDoS game has changed drastically and everything is so much more advanced

???????????? - August 29, 2025, 5:18 am

(Aug 29, 2025 05:13 AM)6 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yeah when i was literally 9, it was the time of shell booters and putty booters haha

Now the DDoS game has changed drastically and everything is so much more advanced

I used yahoo booters in that era. There used to exist yahoo chat rooms, etc. Now things have really changed a lot.

???????????? - August 29, 2025, 5:19 am

(Aug 29, 2025 05:13 AM)6 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yeah when i was literally 9, it was the time of shell booters and putty booters haha

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6 - August 29, 2025, 5:22 am

(Aug 29, 2025 05:19 AM)??????? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I used yahoo booters in that era. There used to exist yahoo chat rooms, etc. Now things have really changed a lot.  
I know and msn messenger lol

???????????? - August 29, 2025, 5:24 am

(Aug 29, 2025 05:22 AM)6 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I know and msn messenger lol  
I guess we are from the same era :)

6 - August 29, 2025, 5:25 am

(Aug 29, 2025 05:24 AM)??????? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I guess we are from the same era :)  
I used to use mirc for my botnet in that era used to use the La routers exploit haha.

Damn u brought me to my childhood

???????????? - August 29, 2025, 5:27 am

(Aug 29, 2025 05:25 AM)6 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I used to use mirc for my botnet in that era used to use the La routers exploit haha.

Damn u brought me to my childhood

I used to have a dial-up connection back then, it's always nice to look back on those good old days.

6 - August 29, 2025, 5:28 am

(Aug 29, 2025 05:27 AM)??????? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I used to have a dial-up connection back then, it's always nice to look back on those good old days.

The one where u needed to recharge with scratch cards lol

???????????? - August 29, 2025, 5:31 am

(Aug 29, 2025 05:28 AM)6 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The one where u needed to recharge with scratch cards lol  
Yes scratch cards, CDMA used to exist, CD-DVD, Burning them, Lot of old memories. I should make a thread on this topic some day where all old memories are there and people remember them and feel attached and happy.

6 - August 29, 2025, 5:32 am

(Aug 29, 2025 05:31 AM)??????? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yes scratch cards, CDMA used to exist, CD-DVD, Burning them, Lot of old memories. I should make a thread on this topic some day where all old memories are there and people remember them and feel attached and happy.

Maybe your next thread? ?

???????????? - August 29, 2025, 5:35 am

(Aug 29, 2025 05:32 AM)6 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Maybe your next thread? ?

This I will do at end, 10th one. it will be very special.

6 - August 29, 2025, 5:36 am

(Aug 29, 2025 05:35 AM)??????? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This I will do at end, 10th one. it will be very special.  
Great, can't wait.

???????????? - August 29, 2025, 5:57 am

(Aug 29, 2025 05:36 AM)6 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Great, can't wait.

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=6306972>

(Aug 29, 2025 05:36 AM)6 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Great, can't wait.

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=6306972>

Here it is. It will take you back in time.

ttbr0 - August 30, 2025, 1:47 am

this is a good reality check. a lot of people who enter the hacking world are often misled by false hollywood representations and their expectations are completely misaligned with reality. hacking at its core is very technical and it should be the thing you learn after you understand a system well enough that you can discover and exploit vulnerabilities. if you have no understanding then you have no hacking. the problem with understanding something is that it takes time and effort to study and learn the boring basics which is not what the typical person is interested in doing. it takes a very special mindset and attitude to be able to do this and most people are not built for hacking.

CjSystem2030da - September 1, 2025, 12:39 pm

At the beginning I had the 5 errors ?

???????????? - October 18, 2025, 2:05 pm

(Sep 1, 2025 12:39 PM)CjSystem2030da Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) At the beginning I had the 5 errors ?

You always learn from your own mistakes.

**Stanley** - September 12, 2026, 6:21 am

I'm Stanley HF's helper bot. The OP (original poster) of this thread wants everyone to see this page and has elected to bump it to the top of the showthread listing. Since HF doesn't want a ton of LQP (Low Quality Posts) this is the best method of bumping your content. There is a small ?yte fee for each bump. Any OP can bump any of their threads on HF from the linked icon on the top of their first post.

If you haven't already read the first post of this thread we encourage you to do so.

Thanks,  
Stanley