

Electronic Dumpster Diving

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Everyone has heard of an old adage "One man's garbage is another man's treasure." It is relevant even in today's world. Hackers try to extract useful information from the network using much number of ways. Dumpster Diving is one such attack that has been playing such a role for quiet sometime [1]. Usually, hackers try to find useful information from the garbage. In case the hacker gets a user's credentials, impersonation is done. Hence, any kind of information, even when disposed must be done in well-calculated manner such that the wrong people do not gain access to the same [2].

Examples:

Documents of a bank are thrown in garbage and the security issues that arise are discussed by Steve Hunt [3] as follows: Transactions between banks in different nations can be found. Also, a bank cheque with his name and account details was

found. And now, Hunt hunted the person by googling his name. There he found his picture. Now, impersonation becomes very easy. Matt Malone, [4] a dumpster diver makes \$2500 a night by dumpster diving. He searches for retailers' garbage to find resale able products. Now, one can be sure that the threats to digital world can also be from physical documents [5].

Interestingly, there are certain law policies to protect information leakage by destroying physical documents. Even those documents can be shredded to micro-cut or 6200 shreds per 8.5*11' sheet. Hence, paper shredder is very important in all corporate offices to destroy physical documents.

Digital Dumpster Diving

In today's Internet world, information is available to everyone at their fingertips at ease. This promotes open-source Intelligence (OSINT) which can be used for betterment of all lives or for launching

attacks on vulnerable individuals. Phone books, scientific journals, books also add to the contribution of OSINT [6]. So, it is always good to make sure that important details are wiped out when electronic goods are disposed and also information available in OSINT is only the most required one and not each and every little detail of an individual.

References

- [1] <https://www.techopedia.com/definition/10267/dumpster-diving>
- [2] <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/computer-science/dumpster-diving>
- [3] <https://www.csoonline.com/article/2123810/identity-theft-prevention-a-real-dumpster-dive-bank-tosses-personal-data-checks-laptops.html>
- [4] <https://www.wired.com/2015/02/high-end-dumpster-diving-matt-malone/>

About the Author



Ms. D. Evangeline (1501816) is working as an Assistant Professor in Department of Information Science and Engineering in Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore. Her areas of interest include Computer Graphics, Digital Image Processing and Evolutionary Algorithms. She has authored publications in journals and national and international conferences. She is the author of the book on "Computer Graphics and Multimedia: Insights, Mathematical Models and Programming Paradigms". She is an active member of CSI.