



Why Teach the Computer Misuse Act?



Teens more likely to hack (5%) than smoke (3%) or have sex (2%)¹



Teens more likely to hack (5%) than be in a gang (2%)¹

1 in 4

Teenagers admitted having tried to compromise someone's account²



~1% of teenagers sent a virus at least once in previous 12 months¹

17

Average age of arrest for cybercrime³

61%

Of hackers started before 16 yrs old³

✓ This is a Safeguarding Issue for Education

✓ This is an Ethics and Online Harms subject

¹ Risky behaviours - Centre for Longitudinal Studies – UCL January 2018

² Tufin Teenage Hacking Habits

³ NCA / CREST Pathways into Cyber Crime

Learning Objectives

1. To have an understanding of cybercrime, the Computer Misuse Act 1990 and the consequences of breaking the law
2. To learn about careers in Cyber Security

Benefits

- Lesson plan has been designed to meet:
- PSHE topics H2, R28, R30, R35, L1, L9
 - Gatsby Benchmarks 2, 4, 5*
 - Education for a Connected World Framework[#]

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the lesson students should:

- Explain the Computer Misuse Act 1990 in simple terms to someone else
- Demonstrate decision making and risk assessment skills in relation to cybercrime
- Know where to go for help and guidance
- Understand some career pathways

Resources Required

1. This Lesson Plan + Presentation
2. Large TV or Projector with Audio
3. Printouts of Case Studies (if desired)
4. Whiteboard or Flipchart with pens

Keywords

Computer Misuse Act; Cybercrime; Hacking; DDoS; Blackhat; Whitehat; Cyber Security

* Gatsby Benchmark 5 met when delivered by STEM Ambassador

[#] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-for-a-connected-world>

The Lesson

The Lesson is intended to be 1 hour in length to get the maximum opportunity, but can be adapted for slightly shorter lesson slots by limiting certain sections such as case studies.

	Activity	Description	Timing (mins)
1	Introduction	Aims and Objectives.	2
2	Cybercrime	Discussion: Who, what, why... the causes and motivations.	10
3	Cyber Champion Game	Two versions: Static or Moving. Make ethical and legal decisions to help crack an international cybercrime case.	15
4	Case Studies	Group Activity: In 2s or 3s discuss a case, then present back to the class what you thought about the crime and sentence; <i>or</i> Class Activity: As a class, discuss a few cases and opinions as to the crime and the sentence.	5 then 15 - or - 20
5	Career Paths	Presentation: the various cyber careers and their benefits, skills required, pathways into a career and finding out more.	5
7	Close	Ensure understanding, signpost to more information including defending yourself.	5

The latest version of all material required is always available at:

<https://serocu.police.uk/champions/>

This Lesson Plan has been created and developed by the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROUCU) Cyber Choices Team.

The UK Government and the Police are seriously concerned about what young people are doing around the world of computer crime. The statistics speak for themselves that a worrying number of young people are heading down a risky path.

The Police have no desire to attempt to arrest their way out of this problem. We need to intervene at a younger age before things get out of hand and they cause harm.

The Case Studies in this lesson plan show the kind of harm being caused at just 15 years old, with prison sentences of 2 years or more being issued. The MAXIMUM penalty under the Computer Misuse Act is LIFE in prison. A worrying number of online gamers are performing Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS aka 'Booting' or 'Stressing') attacks against each other just to win the online game by kicking an opponent off. This offence carries up to 10 years in prison. They use and pay for tools written by Organised Crime, which may be badly written and knock the wrong person offline causing real harm. What if a school or small business or hospital gets taken out? Half of small businesses go out of business within 6 months of a cyber attack if it takes a week or more to recover from the effects.

We know this topic can be confusing with lots of jargon. We have lots of help on our website, including a Cyber Glossary, at:

<https://serocu.police.uk/cyber-choices-educator/>