Hacked Contact Lists (Address Book)

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Overview

- We will discuss the recent activity of email account break-ins resulting in spam to your contact list. This has been particularly common for Yahoo mail.

- We'll talk about what goes on behind the scenes, the risks of email misuse, and what you can do if you are concerned.

- **I am no expert. This is my personal opinion.**

- Please participate in the discussion but keep on topic.

Let's not be paranoid
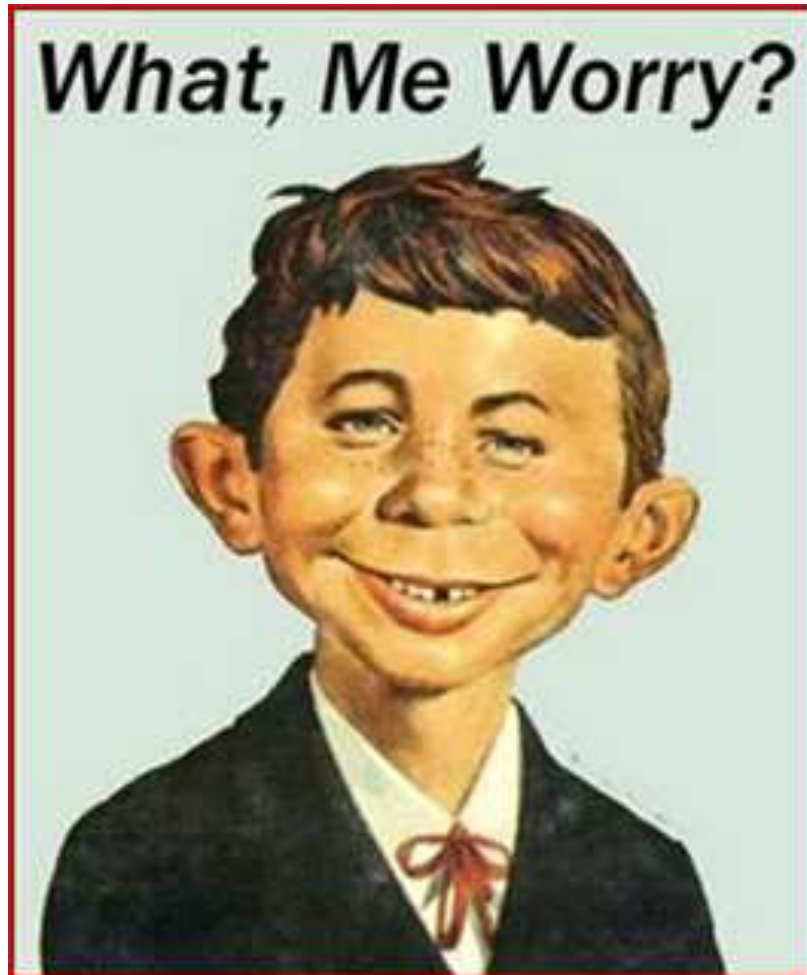
Objectives / Focus

- What is the damage that can result from hacked email?
- Where is your address book/contact list?
- How could it get hacked?
- What can you do to protect it?

What is the damage that can result?

- Receiving spam email from others
  - Loss of privacy
  - Inconvenience, embarrassment
  - Possible malicious attachments
- If your account is broken into
  - Login and password allows "Hacker" to do anything your login allows (more next slide)

If your password is known-

- Send mail (Spam) from your account
- Read your mail (info for identity theft)
  - Try to use same password elsewhere
- Try to reset password in financial accounts
  - Reset authorization via your email
  - Use security question for protection
- ???

Where is your address book/contact list?

– Your computer

– In the cloud
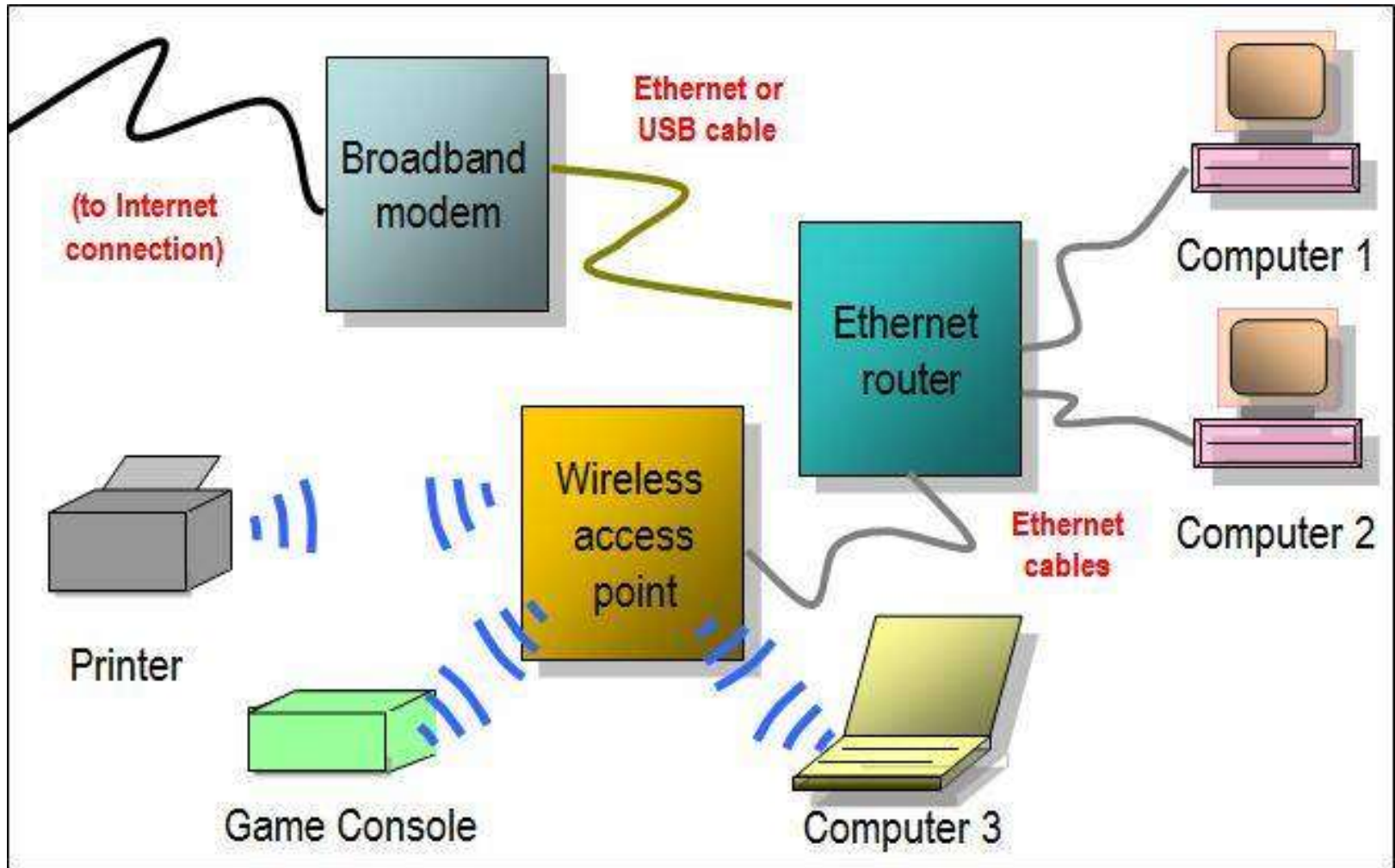
– In your phone or mobile device

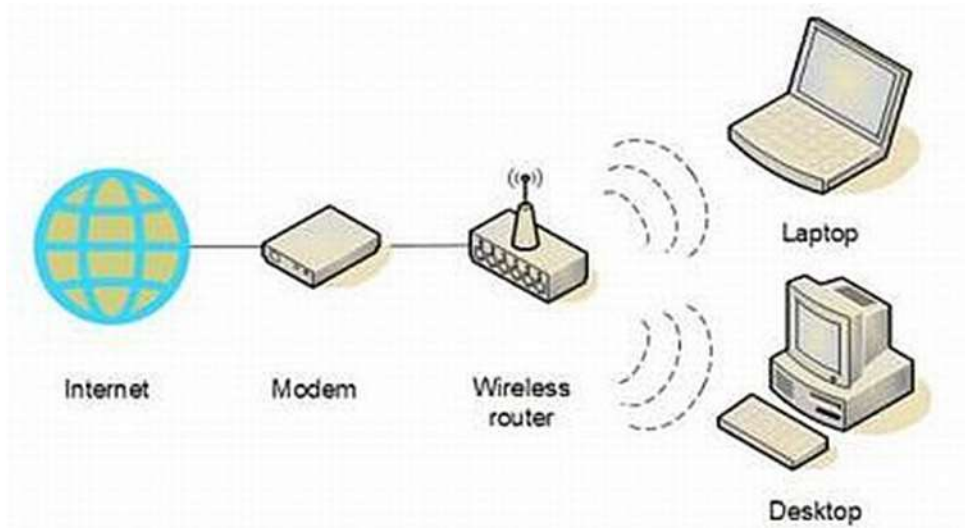In your email (context)

– Harvest distribution lists

How could it get hacked?

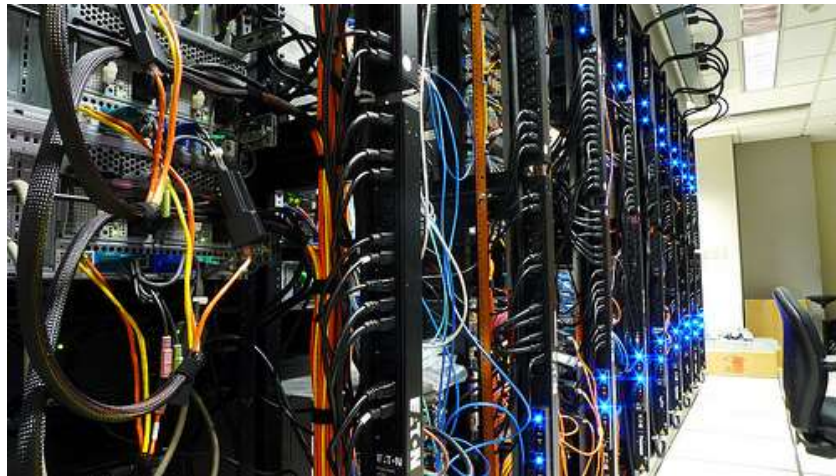- Let's review hardware network
  How do you get connected?

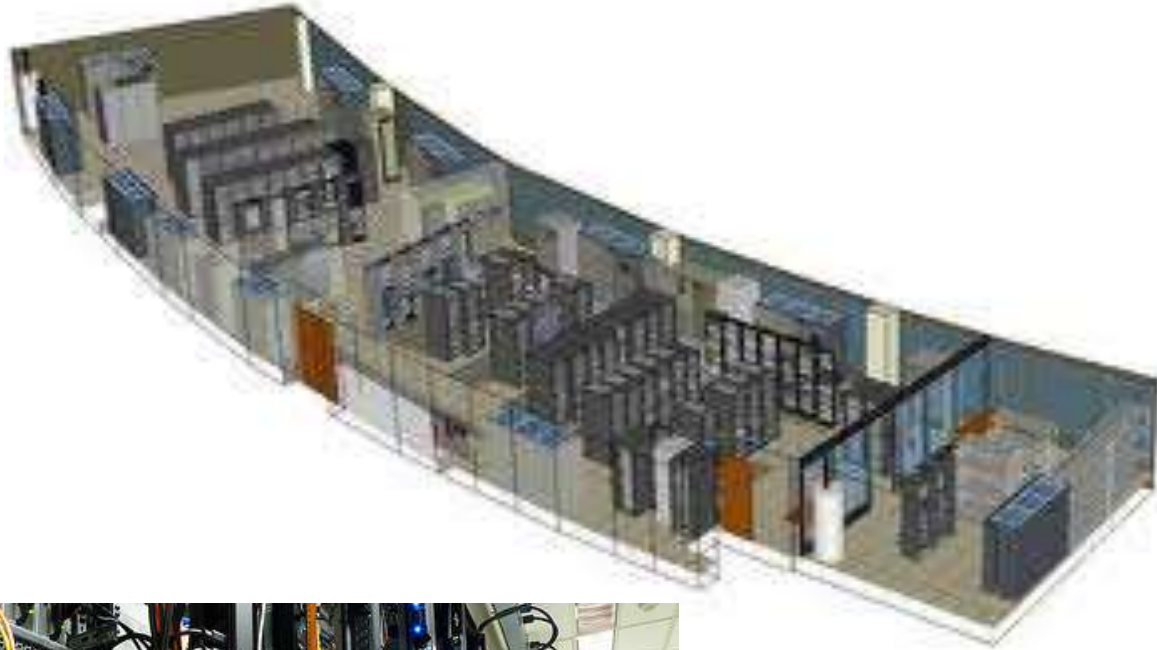# How do you get connected to the Internet?

Internet — Modem — Wireless router — Laptop — Desktop

Connect to service provider

Example: Yahoo Server Farm

How could it get hacked?

– Guess your password

– Break into your equipment

– Steal your cellphone

– Eavesdrop on insecure connection - public wi-fi - open unknown router

– Examples:

  • http://mail2web.com/

  • https://www.rcn.com/boston//customer-center

  • https://login.comcast.net/login

Malware on your computer

- Key loggers
- Snooping programs

- Protection
  - Anti-virus
  - Firewall
  - Etc.

Server break-in

eBay, Amazon, your bank have large IT/security staff

A small business may not have good electronic security

Yahoo Confirms 450,000 Accounts Breached, Experts Warn Of Collateral Damage

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/12/yahoo-accounts-breached_n_1669181.html

How long will these passwords remain usable?

Change your password ?

WI-FI Security

- Eavesdrop on insecure connection

- public wi-fi

- open unknown router

- Make sure network is not accessible

http://mobileoffice.about.com/b/2013/07/30/this-is-what-hackers-see-when-you-use-a-public-wi-fi-hotspot.htm?nl=1

http://www.pcworld.com/article/2043095/heres-what-an-eavesdropper-sees-when-you-use-an-unsecured-wi-fi-hotspot.html

What can you do to protect it?

- Limit exposure
- Avoid saving data
- Firewalls, anti virus, etc.
- Use multiple addresses
- Change password
- Hard to guess password
- Limit password scope
- Use bcc, don't broadcast distribution lists
- ???

End of planned program

SPAM - Possible follow-up

- - How to identify spam

- - Where does it come from?

- - What you could do about it

- - Your favorite Spam recipes

- - ???