



The Ease of Hiring A Hacker: The Threat is Real

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The Ease of Hiring A Hacker: The Threat is Real

There is an overwhelming number of spying tools out there. Although, their use can be amplified by **professional hackers**, who are easy to find and hire online.

The ease of hacking can be showcased by the fact that if someone searched for “hiring hackers” on **Google**, the first page of the search results usually displays at least 4, sometimes 5 niche websites selling professional hacking services, 3 or 4 articles explaining the process of hiring a hacker online for personal “projects” and maybe one referring to various trends on the cyber security market, involving hackers. The same goes for similar keywords like “hackers for hire”, “professional hacker”, “hire a hacker”.

Even more remarkably, searching for “hacking services”, the first page shows no less than 8 niche websites for contracting professional hackers with the remaining 2 results being articles about the new “hacking as a service” trend.

Some examples of websites that offer hacking services:

- neighborhoodhacker.com
- hackerslist.com
- cryptohackers.com
- hacker1337.com
- hirethehacker.com
- centralhacker.com
- hackerforhire.com
- ihackers.com.co

An entire market seems to have emerged, one that was once **functioning in a grey area**, but now out in the open. There is nothing different between these kind of websites and other freelancing platforms, offering services online other than the specific focus on the hacking capabilities of their contractors.

Some of these service **providers act as a team**, allowing the client to place a request that will be resolved **anonymously**¹.

Others make it more **personal**, allowing anyone to place announcements for hacking jobs and enable pre-approved hackers to enter the bid for receiving the assignment, get personal reviews and build visibility on the market. Some platforms offer **additional services**, including **personal assistance** with the project, other market themselves as only working with **Certified Ethical Hackers**² as opposed to malicious hackers.

¹ Source: <http://cryptohackers.com/services.html>

² Source: <http://neighborhoodhacker.com/about-us/certified-ethical-hackers/>

Their most commonly offered services are **marketed as security services**³: from recovering passwords from computers, mobile devices, E-mail accounts, Facebook and more, to hacking online accounts like Gmail, Yahoo!, Hotmail, AOL, to Social Media & Cyber Stalking Investigations, Online Fraud Investigation, Mobile Security or Cyber Bullying. Others market their services straightforward, ensuring discreetness⁴ and fast results.

One of the most transparent websites that provides such services to whomever might be interested is hackerslist.com. Assignments are publicly visible and anyone can get an image of what people are willing to pay for and what are the costs for such services:

- most of the requests are for **hacking social media account** costs between \$300 and \$2000, depending on the “package”
- **hacking instant messaging** accounts – \$600 to \$1500
- **cleaning driving record** – received bids between \$100 and \$1000
- **removing negative Google article** – received bids between \$500 and \$2000
- **changing university grade** - received bids between \$500 and \$2000, while high-school grade change received bids \$100 - \$500
- **pre-engagement screening** is also a popular service ranging from \$100 to \$600
- **accessing video surveillance system** is a rather inexpensive service - \$100 - \$1000

These kind of services and availability make it all too easy to find and pay hackers to carry out cyber attacks and open up a whole new range of possibilities for anyone with an interest in unavailable information.

Can the equipment be bought under \$100? If so what are they usually?

Most online shops that sell covert surveillance equipment have an “under \$100”⁵ selection of products, many of which don't give away their extra function⁶.

For less than \$100, anyone can get:

³ Source: <http://neighborhoodhacker.com/services>

⁴ Source: <http://www.hacker1337.com/website-hacking-service.html>

⁵ Source: <http://www.spytecinc.com/spy-gear-under-100-dollars.html?p=2>

⁶ Source: <http://www.brickhousesecurity.com/category/hidden+cameras/best+hidden+cameras.do?c=5.100395&price=Under+%24100&pp=12&sortby=ourPicksAscend&cx=0>

- A hat camera⁷ that records 2 hours of covert video per charge in HD footage with audio
- A functional lightbulb⁸ with concealed camera that runs on house power, captures a whole room and is motion-activated
- an USB cable endoscope camera⁹, that can be easily used to peep through a keyhole
- Other concealed wearable video cameras or voice recorders, like sunglasses, ties, pins, lighters or pens

Most of the available low budget invasion of privacy equipment is surveillance oriented, with video or audio recording functions. Location trackers¹⁰ are generally more expensive, with only data loggers available in this price range.

Can free (or under \$50) software (or service) be bought for spying online? If so what does it do? And why is it worrying?

Online monitoring of individuals, devices or places is now easier to attain and harder to detect than ever, with free or inexpensive monitoring software readily available for download and use. One of the first type of computer use monitoring programs is the **key logger**, which records key strokes and turns them into a log which is accessible online. Key loggers were initially developed to record passwords, but evolved into complex computer surveillance tools¹¹, featuring options like black listed words and real-time notifications. Some key loggers are free to download and use.

Other popular spying software apps can turn a **computer's webcam** into a **remote surveillance system** and link it to your cell phone for live **video-streaming**. Motion detection, instant alerts, desktop capturing, remote controlling, even automatic license plate recognition are just a few of the features such systems offer. One of the most **option-rich spy camera** applications is also **free**¹², while others cost just a few dollars¹³.

⁷ Source: <http://www.brickhousesecurity.com/product/covert+hat+camera.do?sortBy=ourPicksAscend&page=2&from=fn>

⁸ Source: <http://www.brickhousesecurity.com/product/light+bulb+hidden+camera.do?sortBy=ourPicksAscend&page=2&from=fn>

⁹ Source: <http://www.spytecinc.com/16ft-usb-borescope-endoscope-inspection-camera.html>

¹⁰ Source: <http://www.spytecinc.com/i-gotu-gt-120-gps-logger.html>

¹¹ Source: <http://phrozenblog.com/?p=140>

¹² Source: <http://www.ispyconnect.com/features.aspx>

¹³ Source: <http://icamsource.software.informer.com/>

The **cell phone surveillance market** is maybe the most **dynamic**, offering tens of options for stealth phone monitoring, from **instant access** to phone calls or text messages, to simply turning the device into a full-feature covert surveillance tool. Common capabilities provided by such software include: **audio and video recording**, taking pictures or turning the camera on remotely, location tracking, monitor emails and social networking, recording passwords and many others. Most of the available programs cost up to **\$50 for a 3 months license**. Some examples are:

1. <http://maxxspy.com/select-plan-and-price.aspx?lang=en-US>
2. <http://www.mobile-spy.com/purchase.html>
3. <http://www.mspy.com/buynow.html>
4. <http://www.prospybubble.com/>
5. However, there seem to be free as alternatives available:
6. <https://mobile-tracker-free.com/>
7. <http://cell-trackers.com/>

