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**HackAttack.**

**By Robert J Farey**

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P C. owners are constantly at risk from attacks by hackers.

Spy ware, viruses, trojan horses, and all sorts of other malevolent programs are all trying to take control of your computer.

What can we do about it?

How can we be sure that we are properly protected against them?

A hacker will generally not be interested in doing damage to your PC. His main interest is in gaining control of your computer so that he can use it to send out hundreds of thousands of e-mails in your name with the intention of crashing your mail server.

This can get you into very serious trouble with the server. This is something that you do not want. How are you going to prove that you were not to blame?

How do the hackers do it?

What tools do they use?

A port scanner.

What is a port scanner?

A port scanner can locate PCs that are on line and check for an open port.

A hacker using a program such as 'Super Scan' can find an open port to gain entrance to your computer. Once in, he can use your computer as if it were his own. The only difference is that to all intents and purposes it is you that is causing all of the trouble.

The main port that the hacker is interested in is port 80. This is the one that you use to log on to the internet.

## HackAttack.

I am not going to confuse you with all the various programs that are designed to show you what ports are open at any particular time. What you need to know is how to protect your computer against these attacks.

There are a number of programs designed to show you what is going on inside your PC. I will give you a short list of some that are recommended by some of the program makers.

The one that I would not be without is: [www.testmyfirewall.com](http://www.testmyfirewall.com) As its name implies it will test your firewall for flaws and scan for open ports and any other security problems you may have. You do have a firewall, don't you?

Another one is: [www.pestscan.com](http://www.pestscan.com) This will scan for any nasties that are already on the computer.

Lastly, I use: <http://www.security.symantec.com> This will run a security check of all my systems.

Don't put off what you should be doing today. Make sure that your protection is doing its job. Check that you have the latest version of whatever protection you are using. An out of date system is worse than useless. It gives a false sense of security and suddenly you find yourself in serious trouble with your ISP.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your computer will not cause problems for someone else. There are so many free systems out there that you have no excuse for not using one or more of them.

Be safe. Be happy. Be responsible.

All the best. ...Bob...

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Bio.Robert earns his crust by targeting the thousands of newcomers to internet trading. He aims to cut their learning curve to enable them to start earning money from the word go. He learned the hard way. You can learn the easy way. Checkout his website. It's not posh. It's not perfect, but it is effective. <http://www.learn-and-earn-now.co.uk/>

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