Social engineering in academic world

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Abstract. In the academic world there is different samples of cheating the researchers, that itwill be better to categorize these samples in a new category as social engineering in theacademic world. On the other hand, it is very necessary for researchers to be familiar withthese social engineering attacks, because the number of these social engineering techniquesis increasing every day. In this article, some cases of social engineering in the academicworld have been introduced

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In the information security literature, social engineering is called to the art of utilization of peoples vulnerable behaviors to create security gap without making victim to be doubted. Social engineering cheats people from different ways, and by persuading those people misuse them to achieve to its aims. Kevin Mitnick had been creator of social engineering method [1 and 2]. Social engineering cheat people from different ways and by misuse of humans natural tendency to trust, achieve its goals [2]. In the todays academic world, we can see samples of social engineering that their goal is cheating the researchers, these samples will be introduced in this article. In the academic world there is different samples of cheating the researchers, that it will be better to categorize these samples in a new category as social engineering in the academic world. On the other hand, it is very necessary for researchers to be familiar with these social engineering attacks, because the number of these social engineering techniques is increasing every day. In this article, some cases of social engineering in the academic world have been introduced. Hijacked journals: these journals are the clear samples of social engineering attacks in the academic world. Forgers set up faked sites by using name and ISSN of famous journals, and cheating researchers by sending a lot of requests and by giving promise for quick publishing of articles [3 and 4]. Faked declarations: Some of low validated journals use valid indexing centers (such as Thomson Reuters) and expose logos and declare themselves indexed in this scientific bases, however they are not really indexed. Many of researchers are cheated too, because most of beginner researchers have not enough information for working with

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these bases or the access to these bases is not provided for them (such as Scopus that require username and password for access). This case is at such a degree that even indexed creator bases react to that (such as Scopus) [5]. Tempting impact factors: Impact factor of journals usually introduced by Thomson Reuters or Scopus, however some of invalid bases declare impact factor for journals that are not true and they are more than a journal real Impact factor and can cheat researchers [6]. Email spoofing: This technique use available weaknesses in the TCP/IP protocol. In this method, forgers can send email to their victims from email addresses belonging to valid institutions, but cannot receive responses to those emails, therefore use such email addresses so that victims persuaded not to reply to these emails (such as noreply@scopus.com). It is possible that in the not so far future, article publishing requests in the faked journals, send their emails from valid sites. Cheating publishers: In many cases, forgers have been able to cheat publishers and bases, and make their journals as indexed, one of these cases is hijacked journals of publisher of Revistas academicas got indexed in the Thomson Reuters and detected for first time by Dr Mehrdad Jalalian. Fake conferences: Many valid conferences got indexed in a journal. But jobber peoples give promise of articles publishing in valid journals (such as journals got indexed in the Thomson Reuters) for attracting researchers by setting up multiple conferences, but they publish these articles in hijacked journals or publish them as a specific issue in such journals that have not any relations to article subject field (this case seen widely specially in the journals have Zoological record index). Unreal Editorial Board: For attracting researchers, many journals and low validated conferences, declare famous people in a subject field as their Editorial Board members, to increase their validity. In this short article different samples of social engineering in the academic world were presented, so that researchers act more accurately in choosing a conference or journal. Although in the presented field has not been write any article or the number of such articles are too low, but this doesnt mean to ignore it.

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