

Cybercrime

1 Talk about the infographic with your partner. Answer the questions.

- 1 What information does the infographic give us?
- 2 Which country loses the most money?
- 3 Which country loses the least?
- 4 How can you use a computer to commit a crime?

TOTAL COST OF 2014 CYBERCRIME

Cost expressed in US dollars in millions

RUSSIA: \$3.33

AUSTRALIA: \$3.99

UNITED KINGDOM: \$5.93

FRANCE: \$6.38

JAPAN: \$6.91

GERMANY: \$8.13

UNITED STATES: \$12.69



2a Read the article. Does it mention any of your ideas from 1?

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

SEARCH



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We are all part of a growing global community thanks to technology and the Internet. The world is becoming smaller because we are able to communicate across the world at the touch of a button. This has many advantages and opportunities, but it also has drawbacks.

Social media is now everywhere. Most of us are probably on Facebook or Twitter or similar social networking sites, and there are great differences in how people use these sites around the world. For example, in China, as in many other countries, local social media is largely used to stay in touch with friends. But in Japan and the US people most commonly use social media to research products to buy online. In India people often use it to research work opportunities, and in countries like Spain and Russia people generally like to keep up-to-date with news and events through social media. Social media is clearly a good way of keeping in touch with what's happening worldwide.

However, social media and the Internet have also made it easier to commit crime. Cyber criminals are at work worldwide and it is estimated that four in ten teenagers are now the victims of an Internet crime. For instance, more than 41% of young people in the UK have experienced a scam involving their bank account. If you aren't careful with your personal details, passwords and PIN numbers, fraudsters can hack your computer and access your information. Even teenagers themselves can be the criminal. A couple of years ago, an 18-year-old from New Zealand hacked 1.3 million computers and stole millions from different bank accounts around the world. Piracy and phishing (when criminals send out spam emails pretending to be from real companies) are also serious issues. Spam emails usually either contain a virus which could damage our computer data or they want us to reveal our personal information.

A recent survey shows that many cyber attacks seem to originate in Eastern European countries (1.5 million), Germany (780,000), the US (355,000) and China (168,000). But the victims of their crimes are often on the other side of the world, so it's a global problem with no easy solution. And as technology improves, criminals are also finding new ways to scam Internet users and commit fraud. And how can you police the Internet across the world? The criminals are everywhere and are hiding behind their computers, making collecting evidence and arresting them incredibly difficult.

So as the world becomes smaller and more connected because of new technology, is it creating more problems than solutions? Post a comment below and let us know what you think.








2b Read the article again and circle the correct alternative.

- 1 'Cyber' is another word for a criminal/the Internet.
- 2 Using social media to look for job opportunities is a drawback/an advantage.
- 3 Japan, India and the US most frequently use social networking sites for research/staying in touch.
- 4 A teenager from New Zealand committed a crime by phishing/hacking bank accounts worldwide.
- 5 Downloading material illegally from the Internet is known as piracy/fraud.
- 6 Spam emails sometimes contain a virus/scam which can destroy the information in our computers.

2c Read and match.

- 1 A country which likes shopping online.
 - 2 A region with a very large amount of cybercrime.
 - 3 A country where nearly half its teenagers have been the victims of an online scam.
 - 4 A country which uses social media to keep in touch with news and events.
- a the UK
 b Russia
 c Japan
 d Eastern Europe

2d Read the comments and decide if they are A (an advantage) or D (a danger) of the Internet.

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| 1 |  My brother downloads all his music from free and legal websites. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 |  I use Twitter a lot to share my news with friends around the world. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 |  My mum got a spam email in her inbox, so I told her not to open it. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 |  Tim downloaded his favourite band's new album for free, but it was a scam. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 |  There are lots of security measures you can use to keep your online accounts safe – I always make sure I have a very strong password. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Speaking

3a Work with a partner and discuss the questions.

- 1 Have you ever been the victim of an Internet crime?
- 2 Think of three things you can do to protect yourself from cybercrime.
- 3 What cybercrimes do you know of that have happened in your country?

PROJECT

3b Read the questions and prepare for your project work.

- 1 Work in small groups. Choose a country you are interested in to compare and contrast with your own country.
- 2 In your groups, consider the points below when doing your online research.
 - Find out about the types of cybercrime that happen in your country.
 - Choose another country and research cybercrime there.
 - What types of online crime are the most common? Why?
 - What are the countries and governments doing to try and put a stop to cybercrime?
 - Use any other information that you think is valuable in your presentation.

3c Present your information to the class. What were the main similarities and differences between your country and the countries you researched?