**Computer & Home Network Security**

First off, thank you all for your interest into computer security and in the feedback I received on my post in University of Reddit.

Recommended software: Wireshark (packet capture)

Related software: Backtrack 5 OS

Related book: Introduction to Network Security by Doug Jacobson

Background on me:

I currently work as a system administrator for a larger school district in the great state of Iowa located in the United States. I attended Iowa State University and received my Bachelors of Science in Computer Engineering in May of this year. I have always had a fascination with how computers and networks function and especially how security is done within them.

Goal for the course:

My goal with this class is to take what I learned and some experiences I have dealt with to impart on you how computer and network security works and what is the best way to set all of this up. And hopefully you all will spread these practices to the people who you give IT support to.

Things to keep in mind while taking this class:

1. I do not know, nor do I claim to, know everything about this topic, if at any point in the class you feel like the information I am giving is incorrect please feel free to contact me. The information security world moves at the fastest pace of any IT related field. It is constantly changing, so even things I was taught at the beginning of the year have changed, so feel free to message me and I will be sure to respond back the best that I can.
2. I will try to keep this topic as fun and exciting as possible, but some parts of security can get a little boring so just stick with me I promise it will get better
3. There may be things in this class that we discuss that could be used to either break into systems or networks, please only use these for educational purposes. The reason we are going over them is to show how hackers use exploits to get into systems. As the saying goes, hack to learn don’t learn to hack.

DISCLAIMER: I am not responsible for how you use the information I provide, granted most of this stuff is up freely on the Internet or in books but I don’t want to get nailed for teaching a Reddit class.

Things we will go over:

1. DHCP, ARP, DNS -> How they work and how they are spoofed
2. Passwords -> How computers store them and different methods of cracking them
3. Home network security - > How to set your private LAN so that you remain safe but also get the most features out of it
4. Current Events -> If there is a current event that is found by myself or anyone of you I will bring it up in the next class period and talk about what it means for the average computer user.
5. Class questions or comments – Feel free to email me questions about what we went over or things you would like to go over in future lectures.

Breakdown of class schedule:

Starting on September 2nd I will try to post bi-weekly Youtube videos going over a certain topic, I will try my hardest to have these online by some point on every Sunday until I run out of topics to cover. I will also post relevant course material in PDF form and will be available on the class website.

Contact Info:

Feel free to contact me at any time at [alex.itguy@ureddit.com](mailto:alex.itguy@ureddit.com)

Class website: [www.ureddit.weebly.com](http://www.ureddit.weebly.com)

All updates for the class will be placed on the website.