

Social Engineering: The Human Side of Hacking

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Abstract: *Social engineering exploits human psychology and organizational processes to bypass technical defenses and gain unauthorized access to information, systems, or physical spaces. This report analyses common social engineering techniques, the cognitive biases they exploit, notable historical case studies, and practical mitigation strategies that blend technical controls, policy design, and human-centric security training. Emphasis is placed on measurable, reproducible interventions and the importance of ethical considerations when developing countermeasures*

Keywords: social engineering, phishing, human factors, cybersecurity

