

Bluetooth Fishing

Have you ever been at a house where the baby monitor or the cordless phones pick up the neighbour's conversations? This is sort of like that.

It's also less about your actual Bluetooth itself and the fact that many people walk around with the Bluetooth enabled on their smartphone or their computer when they don't use it which means it's open for cybercreeps to break their way in.

It's also a way of strangers sending a broadcast message, and then watching to see who picks it up. They then can identify you in a crowd, and continue to message you and follow you, without you being aware.

When you have Bluetooth turned on but not in use, you are basically broadcasting that your phone is on & available for other to Bluetooth to it!

HOW THEY DO IT?

A hacker can run a program on the computer that scans for Bluetooth connections. When they find one, bingo, they connect and they are in.

WHAT THEY MIGHT STEAL?

What do they take? It depends upon their motive. Sometimes they are after your address book, possibly your calendar, or photos. Some cybercreeps snoop in so they can use your phone to make long distance calls. Crafty cybercriminals may turn your phone into an impromptu speaker and listen to your conversations.

Others may use it to send a message in a crowded place, such as a shopping centre, or ice-rink, and then see who picks up their phone to read the message. They then can identify you in a crowd, and may decide to follow you home. Do you want to be contacted by strangers?

3 TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF:

1. Turn your Bluetooth to "off" on devices such as your phone when not using the Bluetooth feature
2. You can also look at your manufacturer settings to see if there is a "hidden" or "private" mode
3. Refrain from sensitive and personal conversations using the Bluetooth device.

If you are worried about this, just talk to a friend, teacher, or parent for advice, or you can contact our safeguarding team on: CHSSafeguarding@cheney.oxon.sch.uk