

# Unit 8 Critical Thinking Questions

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## **1. How has the rise of cryptocurrency empowered ransomware attackers?**

The value of cryptocurrency during a ransomware attack is actually the transparency of cryptocurrency exchanges. A hacker can simply watch the public blockchain to see if victims have paid up and can automate the process of giving a victim their files back once this payment has been received, if they actually choose to do so.

## **2. How might you engage in “ethical” hacking in a way that could actually improve cybersecurity?**

These kinds of hackers are known as white-hat hackers. They act like pretend hackers, who test the security of an organization’s applications or even their physical headquarters.

## **3. What can you do to be a good digital citizen? Include behaviors related to managing personal data and protecting digital assets.**

A good digital citizen protects their personal information, uses good judgment and treats others with respect. Whether you're posting on social media, sending an email or commenting on an online discussion, practicing good digital citizenship makes our online world a more welcoming place for everyone.

## **4. Consider a third category of behaviors related to being a good digital citizen: how you behave online, in general. Especially in the age of social media, forum participation, comment threads, etc., list at least three ways you can behave ethically online.**

- Be careful what you write about others
  - Be truthful
- Consider your audience, and use language that is appropriate

## **5. Based on everything you’ve learned so far, name at least TWO concrete steps you can take to improve your personal cybersecurity in the near future.**

Know the risks, and be cautious about anything you do on the internet.