Why should I read CPNI’s guide to *Social Engineering: Understanding the Threat*?

Social engineers build and exploit personal relationships to gain access to sensitive information or restricted sites. If your organization lacks appropriate security measures, or if your employees lack security awareness, your organization and employees could be left vulnerable to social engineering. CPNI’s guidance, *Social Engineering: Understanding the Threat*, will help you to understand the nature of the threat and how to protect yourself against it.

*Social Engineering: Understanding the Threat*, outlines:-

- what social engineering is and how it is done,
- why it matters,
- who the perpetrators and victims could be,
- what to protect,
- how to employ countermeasures.

Step-by-step guidance takes you through a model for countering social engineering strategically:-

- identifying the assets to protect,
- determining vulnerabilities,
- employing counter-measures consistent with the vulnerability profile,
- reviewing effectiveness.

Further advice is given on:-

- vulnerabilities which can be exploited,
- tactics commonly used,
- counter-measures an organization can implement directly, e.g.
  - risk assessment of critical operations which might be targeted,
  - software controls,
  - security-minded communications,
  - information handling,
  - training for guards on the recognition of suspicious behaviour.

- what your employees need to be told, e.g.
  - your organization’s security procedures,
  - how to recognize a possible attack,
  - the importance of verifying identity before responding to a request for information,
  - how to behave on social networking sites,
  - the value of the information they hold.

- methods for promoting employee security awareness through, e.g.
  - workshops and videos,
  - inclusion of security awareness in annual appraisals.

Annexes provide:-

- a table listing the range of social engineering methods (with examples),
- further relevant CPNI guidance and tools.

This guidance can be downloaded from the CPNI website under Personnel Security.