Ethical Hacking and Countermeasures
Version 6

Module XXI
Physical Security
Michael, a practicing computer security consultant, was asked to do a physical security test by the Chief of a well-known database firm. Their database was considered to have a major competitive edge. They believed their systems were secure, but wanted to be sure of it.

Michael went to the firm on the pretext of meeting its Chief. Before entering the lobby, Michael had driven around the building and checked for loopholes in the physical security, where he could easily slip into the building.
He walked to the loading bays, up the stairs, and proceeded through the warehouse, to what was an obvious entrance into the office building. Michael also knew of the location of the computer room. He took the elevator down, and entered the room, which was secured with cipher locks and access cards. He went straight to the tape racks. There, he studied the racks, as if looking for specific information. He grabbed a tape with an identifier that looked something like ACCT95QTR1.

The entire process lasted no more than 15 minutes. During that time, Michael breached their physical security by entering the building and taking a tape.
Security firms back CCTV use in business premises

Wanqui Muchiri and Ken Wood (left) address the Press on security issues within the central business district.

January 25, 2008: The Kenya business community is likely to have a major shift in its security model following increased looting and vandalism of property during the post-poll violence.

Security companies and the business community told Business Daily the new models will include taking measures ranging from going for stronger equipment to secure business premises and use of latest technology that will ensure around the clock monitoring.

Ken Wood, the managing director of TSS, a private security company, said premises access control systems in Kenya are generally “weak”, adding that more often than not, unwanted people are able to get into premises.

Mr Wood said companies should invest in high quality coloured close circuit cameras (CCTVs) which are more effective.

Most businesses have made losses from post-election violence and have to pay for the liabilities caused as some insurers remain unclear on how claims should be treated.

Insurance firms like Association of Kenya Insurers and the Association of Kenya Reinsurers said the loss or damage arising from political risks will not be covered, adding that they are willing to discuss the claims arising from the disturbances "positively."

Others like the Co-operative Company (CIC) say they will be paying the claims arising from the political violence through its microinsurance department.

Source: http://www.bdafrica.com/
This module will familiarize you with:

- Security Statistics
- Physical security
- Need for physical security
- Factors that affect physical security
- Physical Security checklist
- Locks
- Wireless Security
- Laptop Thefts
- Mantrap
- Challenges in Ensuring Physical Security
- Spyware Technologies
- Countermeasures
Module Flow

Security Statistics → Physical Security → Need For Physical Security → Factors Affecting Physical Security


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<td>Receive alarm communications - 28%</td>
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<td>Access control technology with identification cards - 90%</td>
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Another security breach: IRS sent taxpayer data on unencrypted tapes

By Beth Pariseau, Senior News Writer
14 Jan 2008 | SearchStorage.com

Despite all the high-profile incidents in the past two years of lost backup tapes and other security breaches, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) was exposing personal information on unencrypted tapes until last fall.

The IRS confirmed to SearchStorage.com that copies of its tax database were distributed to state agencies on unencrypted tapes before Sept. 30, 2007. A source at one state agency said the tapes were also sent using common carriers, such as FedEx.

The source, whose agency received the database information on a regular basis, said the IRS had formal guidelines for agencies to place the tapes behind three layers of physical security -- inside a locked box, for example -- and restrict access to "need-to-know" personnel. He added a fourth layer of physical security, but that still didn't make him feel comfortable. "These were standard IBM mainframe tapes," he said. "It didn't take anything special to read them."

Source: http://searchstorage.techtarget.com
Since man always had something important to protect, he found various methods of protecting it.

Egyptians were the first to develop a working lock.

Physical security describes the measures that prevent or deter attackers from accessing a facility, resource, or information stored on the physical media.

Physical security is an important factor of computer security.

Major security actions that are involved with physical security are intended to protect the computer from climate conditions, even though most of them are targeted at protecting the computer from intruders who use, or attempt to use physical access to the computer to break into it.
Physical security describes measures taken to protect personnel, critical assets, and systems against deliberate and accidental threats.

Physical security measures can be:

**Physical**
- Physical measures are taken to secure assets e.g. deploying security personnel

**Technical**
- Technical measures are taken to secure services and elements that support Information Technologies e.g. security for server rooms

**Operational**
- Common security measures are taken before performing an operation such as analyzing threats of an activity and taking appropriate countermeasures
What Is the Need for Physical Security

- To prevent any unauthorized access to computer systems
- To prevent tampering/stealing of data from computer systems
- To protect the integrity of the data stored in the computer
- To prevent the loss of data/damage to systems against any natural calamities
In most organizations, there is not a single person who is accountable for physical security.

People who should be made accountable for the security of a firm including both physical and information security are:

- The plant’s security officer
- Safety officer
- Information systems analyst
- Chief information officer
Factors that affect the physical security of a particular firm:

- Vandalism
- Theft
- Natural calamities:
  - Earthquake
  - Fire
  - Flood
  - Lightning and thunder
- Dust
- Water
- Explosion
- Terrorist attacks
## Physical Security Checklist

- Company surroundings
- Premises
- Reception
- Server
- Workstation area
- Wireless access points
- Other equipment, such as fax, and removable media
- Access control
- Computer equipment maintenance
- Wiretapping
- Remote access
Physical Security Checklist: Company Surroundings

The entrance to the company premises should be restricted to only authorized access.

Checklist for securing the company surroundings:

• Fences
• Gates
• Walls
• Guards
• Alarms

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Security Guards
Premises can be protected by:

- Checking for roof/ceiling access through AC ducts
- Use of CCTV cameras with monitored screens and video recorders
- Installing intruder systems
- Installing panic buttons
- Installing burglar alarms
- Windows and door bars
- Deadlocks
CCTV Cameras
Physical Security Checklist: Reception

The reception area is supposed to be a busier area than other areas of the firm with the number of people entering and exiting.

The reception area can be protected by:

- Files and documents, removable media, etc. should not be kept on the reception desk.
- Reception desks should be designed to discourage inappropriate access to the administrative area by non-staff members.
- Computer screens should be positioned in such a way that people cannot observe the screen near the reception desk.
- Computer monitors, keyboards, and other equipments at the reception desk should be locked whenever the receptionist is away from the desk and they should be logged off after office hours.
The server, which is the most important factor of any network, should be given a high level of security.

The server room should be well-lit.

The server can be secured by the following means:

- Server should not be used to perform day-to-day activities.
- It should be enclosed and locked to prevent any physical movement.
- DOS should be removed from Windows Servers as an intruder can boot the server remotely by DOS.
- Booting from the floppy disk should be disabled and CD-ROM drives on the server or, if possible, avoid having these drives on the server.
Server Room
Physical Security Checklist: Workstation Area

This is the area where a majority of employees work

Employees should be educated about physical security

The workstation area can be physically secured by taking the following steps:

- Use CCTV
- Screens and PCs should be locked
- Workstation layout design
- Avoid removable media drives
If an intruder successfully connects to the firm’s wireless access points, then he is virtually inside the LAN like any other employee of the firm.

To prevent such unauthorized access, the wireless access points should be secured.

Guidelines to follow:

- WEP encryption should be followed
- SSID should not be revealed
- Access points should be password protected to gain entry
- Passwords should be strong enough so that they cannot be easily cracked
Other equipments, such as fax, and removable media

• Such equipment should be secured by following these steps:
  • Fax machines near the reception area should be locked when the receptionist is not at the desk
  • Faxes obtained should be filed properly
  • Modems should not have auto answer mode enabled
  • Removable media should not be placed in public places, and corrupted removable media should be physically destroyed
Access control is used to prevent unauthorized access to any sensitive operational areas.

The types of access controls are:

- Separation of work areas
- Biometric access control
- Entry cards
- Man traps
- Faculty sign-in procedures
- Identification badges
Physical Security Checklist: Biometric Devices

According to www.whatis.com, “Biometrics is the science and technology of measuring and statistically analyzing biological data”

Biometric devices consist of a reader or scanning device, software that converts the scanned information into digital form, and a location for the data to be analyzed; for instance a database that stores the biometric data for comparison with previous records

Methods used by biometric devices for access control are:

- Fingerprints
- Face scan
- Iris scan
- Voice recognition
Biometric Identification Techniques

Fingerprinting
- Ridges and furrows on the surface of a finger are used to identify a person, which are unique

Iris Scanning
- Analyzes the colored part of the eye suspended behind the cornea
Biometric Identification Techniques (cont’d)

Retinal scanning

- Identifies a person by analyzing the layer of blood vessels at the back of the eye

Vein Structure

- Thickness and location of veins are analyzed to identify person
Authentication Mechanisms

**Something you are:**
- Use of biometric techniques such as fingerprints, facial recognition, hand geometry, retinal scan, iris scan, vascular pattern, signature dynamics, and voice dynamics

**Something you know:**
- Based on the traditional password system

**Something you have:**
- Includes mechanisms such as challenge-response lists, one-time pads, smart cards, and so on
Authentication Mechanism
Challenges: Biometrics

Fingerprints can be faked with ease

Face recognition systems can be tricked by masquerade techniques

Signature recognition and hand geometry face the common problem of matching the patterns from a large database which might lead to higher number of false positives and false negatives

Retinal scan can hinder accuracy if the user does not focus on a given point for scan. Iris scan machines are very expensive

Some users object to vascular pattern technology that uses infrared light

Voice dynamics is prone to inaccuracy as it relies on the production of a "voice template" that is compared with a spoken phrase
Faking Fingerprints

Identify your target whose fingerprint you want to fake

Glasses, door knobs, and glossy paper can be good sources to obtain fingerprints of the target

Use the traditional forensic method to make the fingerprints visible. Sprinkle the outer surface of the glass with colored powder so that it sticks to the fat. Latent fingerprints are nothing but fat and sweat on the glass used by the target
Faking Fingerprints (cont’d)

Photograph the fingerprint and scan the image

Use a professional image editor to work on the scanned image. You need to get the exact image of the fingerprint to use as mold, from which the dummy is made

Take the print of the image on a transparency sheet using a laser printer. Add wood glue to one of the prints on the transparency sheet
Add a small drop of glycerine to help in the process of making the dummy. Use a roller for letter press printing.

After the glue dries up, it is pulled off the foil, and is cut to finger size.

Theatrical glue is used to glue the dummy onto your own finger.

You have faked the fingerprint!
Physical Security Checklist
A smart card is a plastic card about the size of a credit card, with an embedded microchip that can be loaded with data.

This data can be used for telephone calling, electronic cash payments, and other applications, and then periodically refreshed for additional use.

A smart card contains more information than a magnetic strip card and can be programmed for different applications.
According to the search security definition, “A security token is a small hardware device that the owner carries to authorize access to a network service”

Security tokens provide an extra level of assurance through a method known as two-factor authentication:

- The user has a personal identification number (PIN) that authorizes them as the owner of that particular device
- The device then displays a number that uniquely identifies the user to the service, allowing them to log in
Appoint a person who will be responsible for looking after the computer equipment maintenance.

Computer equipment in a warehouse should also be accounted for.

The AMC company personnel should not be left alone when they come for the maintenance of the computer equipment.

The toolboxes and the bags of the AMC company personnel should be thoroughly scanned for any suspicious materials that could compromise the security of the firm.
According to www.freesearch.com wiretapping is the action of secretly listening to other people’s conversations by connecting a listening device to their telephone.

According to www.howstuffworks.com, “wiretap is a device that can interpret these patterns as sound.”

You can do few things to make sure that no one is wiretapping:

- Inspect all the data carrying wires routinely
- Protect the wires using shielded cables
- Never leave any wire exposed
Remote access is an easy way for an employee of a firm to work from any place outside the company’s physical boundaries.

Remote access to the company’s networks should be avoided as much as possible.

It is easy for an attacker to remotely access the company’s network by compromising the employee’s connection.

The data being transferred during the remote access should be encrypted to prevent eavesdropping.

Remote access is more dangerous than physical access as the attacker is not in the vicinity and the probability of catching him is less.
Published February 10, 2008 12:00 am - Across my desk this week came the story of the theft of a laptop computer and digital camera from a high school teacher's locked filing cabinet, which brought to mind the fact that the physical security of our digital devices is just as important as having Internet security software. All of the antivirus/antispyware/anti-internet-bad-guy software in the world won't protect you from a clever thief stealing your laptop computer.

The fact that the locked filing cabinet containing the stolen merchandise had somehow mysteriously been unlocked was a source of confusion. Perhaps those that were confused by this situation had never heard of this thing called "the Internet," for one need look no further than the Internet for the answer to their confusion.
Locks

Locks are used to restrict physical access to an asset.

They are used on any physical asset that needs to be protected from unauthorized access, including doors, windows, vehicles, cabinets, and equipment.

Different levels of security can be provided by locks depending on how they are designed and implemented.

A lock has two modes - engaged/locked and disengaged/opened.
Locks (cont’d)

Locks are either mechanical or electrical:

**Mechanical Locks**

- Mechanical locks have moving parts that operate without electricity
- There are two types of mechanical locks:
  - Warded
  - Tumbler

**Electric Locks**

- Electric locks are comprised of electronic devices with scanners that identify users and computers that process codes
- Electric locks consist of the following types:
  - Card access systems
  - Electronic combination locks
  - Electromagnetic locks
  - Biometric entry systems
Lock picking is the art of unlocking a lock without the use of its key.

To prevent lock picking:

- Use a better quality of lock
- Do not give the keys to anyone, as key imprints can be taken for making a duplicate key
- Do not reveal the lock codes
Lock Picking Tools

- Lock Picking Set
- Auto Jigglers
- Cylinder Lock
- Tubular Lock Picks
- Shovit Tool
- Jack Knife
- Electrick Pick
- Broken Key Pullers
Lock Picking Tools (cont’d)
Hierarchical view to secure information:

- Password protection / Complex passwords
- Encrypted file system
- Anti virus software
- Firewalls
- Intrusion detection systems
- Patches and updates
- Lock down unwanted ports / devices
An integrated application of a number of electronic security systems

EPS includes:

- Addressable fire detection systems
- Automatic gas suppression systems
- CCTV systems (IP Networks, Matrix Switchers, DVR camera specifications, etc.)
- RFID-Biometric- Smart Card Access Control Systems
- Intrusion detection systems
- Law enforcement systems and products (Perimeter fencing, Crash barriers, Automatic Retraceable Bollards, Turnstiles, Undercarriage Scanners, X-ray/Gamma Scanners, Sniffers)
- Guarding equipment and guarding plan
Wireless Security Measures:

- Checking the wireless traffic
- Enabling WEP/WPA on the wireless network
- MAC address control
- End-to-end encryption
- VPN (Virtual Private Network)
- Access points evaluation
Laptop Theft Statistics for 2007

Source: http://www.noticebored.com
Statistics for Stolen and Recovered Laptops

Has a company laptop ever been stolen or disappeared?

Did you recover it?

Yes 64 percent
No 36 percent

Yes 12 percent
No 88 percent

Note: 9 answered N/A

Source: http://articles.techrepublic.com.com/
If a laptop were lost...

- **What information of a strategic nature would be disclosed?**
  Real examples of this type of information include pending mergers, new product intellectual property, strategies and launch plans, and previously undisclosed financial operating results.

- **What information of a tactical nature would be disclosed?**
  Examples include private compensation information, plans for organizational changes, proposals to clients, and the myriad of similar information that can be gained from reading a person's email, calendar, contacts, or collection of documents and spreadsheets.
If a laptop were lost...

- **What information about the company's network or computing infrastructure would be revealed that would facilitate an electronic attack?**

  Examples of this type of information include usernames and passwords, dial in numbers, IP addressing schemes, DNS naming conventions, ISPs used, primary email servers, and other networking details related to connecting the laptop to the corporate or Internet environment.

- **What personal information about the laptop owner can be obtained?**
The University of California, Berkeley, is warning more than 98,000 people that the theft of a laptop from its graduate school admissions office has exposed their personal information.

An individual stole the computer from the offices of the school's Graduate Division on March 11, the university said in a statement released late Monday. Roughly one-third of the files on the laptop contained names, dates of birth, addresses and Social Security numbers of 98,369 graduate students or graduate-school applicants, it said. The files go back three decades in some cases.

"At this time, the campus has no evidence that personal data were actually retrieved or misused," the university said in the statement.

No incidents of identity theft have been reported related to the incident, it added. However, UC Berkeley is urging affected individuals to consider putting a fraud alert out at credit reporting agencies.

The data loss follows a string of high-profile incidents in which the personal information of U.S. citizens was exposed, notably consumer data broker ChoicePoint's admission that it had been duped into selling personal information on about 150,000 individuals to possible fraudsters.

The incident is the second recent loss of sensitive information at UC Berkeley. In August, an attacker broke into computers there and gained access to 1.4 million database records containing identity data.

Source: http://news.com.com
Patient data lost in hospital laptop theft

IDG staff

- Snatched computer holds more than 5,000 records

A laptop holding more than 5,000 patient records has been taken from the outpatients department of a Midlands hospital, the Press Association has reported.

The laptop was taken from the outpatients department at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley in early January. The hospital has confirmed it contains a database with information on 5,123 patients with a blood disorder.

Affected patients have been sent letters warning that their personal details have been stolen and West Midlands police have launched an investigation.

As well as medical data, the stolen records include names, addresses and birth dates. It is understood the data was password-protected but not encrypted.

Trust chief executive Paul Farendon said the laptop, a Fujitsu Siemens C Series Lifebook, had not been fitted with a new data security system currently being implemented by the hospital.

Source: http://www.cio.co.uk/
Laptop Security Tools

- Anti-Theft Tags
- Steel Cable Locks
- Tracking & Recovery Systems
- Portable Laptop Carts
- Laptop Locker
- Laptop Tie-Down Brackets

www.computersecurity.com
Laptop Tracker - XTool Computer Tracker

What happens when your computer has been lost or stolen?

Don't you wish your computer could call you and tell you it's location?

This signature software based transmitter secretly sends a signal to the Stealth Signal Control Center via a telephone or Internet connection, to track its location when lost or stolen.

Each signal received by the Control Center provides enough information to track the location of the computer in case of a loss or theft.

Source: www.computersecurity.com
These are programs that will report the location of a stolen laptop

They work when the laptop connects to the Internet

Ztrace Gold

- www.ztrace.com

CyberAngel

- www.sentryinc.com

ComputracePlus

- www.computrace.com
Stop's Unique, Tamper-proof Patented Plate

STOP places "Stolen Property" and a toll-free number for verification and anti-theft information.

This tattoo cannot be removed by any means without marking or defacing the case, and the police and resellers recognize such a mark as a telltale sign that the property is stolen.

Source: http://www.securitygroupintl.com/
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TrueCrypt is a software system for establishing and maintaining an on-the-fly-encrypted volume (data storage device).

On-the-fly encryption means that data is automatically encrypted or decrypted right before they are loaded or saved, without any user’s intervention.

It is a free open source tool.

Source: www.truecrypt.org
## Laptop Security Countermeasures

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<td>Encrypt sensitive data</td>
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<tr>
<td>Back up everything on the laptop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trace a stolen laptop's location</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set BIOS password on the laptop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consider laptop PC insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Add third-party privacy protection for highly sensitive data</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use physical Kensington Locks</td>
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<td>Use strong hardware-based security</td>
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Mantrap provides alternate access for resources.

It consists of two separate doors with an *airlock* in between.

It restricts access to the secure areas.

It permits users to enter the first door and requires authentication access to exit from the second door.

Security is provided in three ways:

- Pose difficulty in intruding into a single door
- Evaluates a person before discharging
- Permits only one user at a time
Mantrap: Diagrammatical Representation

Request for access (Normally Open)
Request for access (Normally Closed)
Door Closed Switch (Closed = Secure)

Door 1 Inputs
Door 2 Inputs
Door 1 Outputs
Door 2 Outputs

Magnetic Lock
Electric Strike
Green Light
Door 1 Inputs

Magnetic Lock
Electric Strike
Green Light
Door 2 Inputs
TEMPEST refers to Transient Electro Magnetic Pulse Emanation Surveillance Technology

Technology for monitoring the devices that emit electromagnetic radiations

Sources of TEMPEST

- Functional Sources
  - Generates electromagnetic energy like oscillators and signal generators
- Incidental Sources
  - Do not generate electromagnetic energy such as electromechanical switches and brush-type motors

Types of TEMPEST

- RED Baseband Signals
- Modulated Spurious Carriers
- Impulsive Emanations
Challenges in Ensuring Physical Security

- Enforcing security policies
- Social engineering attempts
- Restrictions for sharing experience and knowledge
- Cost and Time factors
- Terrorism
- Sophisticated Technologies
Hidden cameras, voice recorders, and spy cameras carried by your employees can defeat your physical security policy.

Categories
- Video Recorders
- Audio Devices
- Bug Detectors
- Home Security
- Spy Gear
Spying Devices

- Spy Glasses
- Lock Pick Set
- Night vision Camera
- Spy Camera
Spying Devices (cont’d)

- **Hibben Claw**: Spray to see things
- **GPS Tracking**: Writes invisibly
Spying Devices (cont’d)

Voice Recorders

Voice Changer

Can Safe and Book Safe

To detect Spy cameras
Spying Devices (cont’d)

Spy camera hidden inside a ceiling fan

Spying Camera

Phishing Intrusion Cell
Physical Security: Lock Down USB Ports

Sometimes, it may not assure guaranteed protection against stealing of data.

What if the intruder carries his own USB memory sticks and connects them to the computers at their office?

In a fraction of a second, an intruder can steal all the business information needed for establishing his own company where he can get the customer’s database.

To prevent the above situations, there is a need for the administrator to lock down the USB ports.

Administrators secure their networks behind firewalls by:

- Installing email filters on their SMTP servers
- Installing anti-virus software on all client workstations

USB stick can be used to:

- Hold an entire company's vital data
- Compromise the network with an infected stick
Device Lock is a device control solution to safeguard network computers against internal and external attacks.

Using Device Lock:

- Network administrators can lock out unauthorized users from USB.
- Administrators can control access to any device like floppies, serial and parallel ports, Magneto-Optical disks, CD-ROMs, ZIPs, and USB.
- Generate a report concerning the permissions that have been set.
- Provide a level of precision control over device resources unavailable.
- Grant users temporary access to USB devices when there is no network connection.
- Control the system remotely using the centralized management console.
- Generate a report displaying the USB, FireWire, and PCMCIA devices.

Source: www.devicelock.com
Blocking the Use of USB Storage Devices

DeviceLock Screenshots
Track Stick records its own location, time, date, speed, heading, and altitude at preset intervals.

It can store months of travel information.

It receives signals from 24 satellites orbiting the Earth, where it can calculate its own position anywhere to within 15 meters.

Advantages:

- If the laptop is stolen, this device is able to keep track of its location, so that it is found easily.
- Tells you how long the “target” has stayed in one place.
Michael examined organization premises, access control systems, and questioned personnel

He pointed out the following loopholes:
- Poor access control systems
- Absence of monitoring mechanisms
- No dedicated officer looked after physical security matters

He suggested the following measures:
- Install Biometric and CCTV systems for controlling access to the restricted areas
- Precautionary arrangements for nature caused disasters
- Deployment of physical security officers
- Maintain physical security checklist
- Proper fencing of organization’s physical structures
### Summary

- Appoint Security officers, who would be accountable for any security breach in a firm.
- Device Lock is a device control solution to safeguard the network computers against internal and external attacks.
- All organizations should have a checklist for physical security as a part of their security check-ups.
- You cannot do anything to prevent natural disasters, but the loss can be decreased substantially if a security policy is properly implemented.
- All the employees should take responsibility in handling security issues.
- Physical security checklist should be maintained for performing regular checks on physical security.
- Biometrics can be used as an effective access control of restricted areas.
- Implementation of physical security policy and social engineering tactics are the two big challenges for physical security.
“According to new government safety regulations, employees must wear goggles and protective clothing when exposed to sharp criticism or cutting remarks.”
“To conform to government safety regulations, no one may climb the ladder of success without wearing a harness and special non-slip shoes.”
“New safety regulations won’t allow us to think outside of the box anymore because boxes have sharp corners.”