

(April Meeting continued)

the same time make money myself.

If you get these opportunities you should attend our April meeting. I hope to see you there and try to bring a friend. Take care, Ron

March Meeting Review
By
Ron Dack

Wikipedia defines **Computer security** (also known as **cybersecurity** or **IT security**) is [information security](#) as applied to [computers](#) and [computer networks](#).

The field covers all the processes and mechanisms by which computer-based equipment, information and services are protected from unintended or unauthorized access, change or destruction. Computer security also includes protection from unplanned events and [natural disasters](#)

There I was just going about my business thinking I have a pretty safe computer. After all I have Comcast's provided Constant Guard protection suite. It consists of Norton AntiVirus, Norton Confidential, and Norton Firewall. I'm always careful what I download or open. I don't go to any iffy websites so I'm safe, right?

Even so, I thought I would contact someone that really knows about computer security. I contacted **Corey Edwards** of **Napa Valley Computers** 224-5542 cedwards@napapc.com. I asked Corey if he would be willing to give a presentation on computer security. You know, for those other people who aren't as savvy as I am. He told I was in luck he happened to have a friend who is a computer security guru and he would contact him to see if he would be willing? Shortly thereafter I received a call from **Lawrence Koga** lawk107@gmail.com. He agreed to do a security presentation at our March meeting. Lawrence sent me e-mail with his resume attached. Lawrence has worked in the computer security business for over 20 years. His resume was very impressive.

At the March meeting I introduced Lawrence to the group then sat down to listen.

OMG (OH MY GOD) there I was learning how easily a 13 year old could be hacking my computer, stealing my passwords, denying me access to my own computer, and reading everything I type on my keyboard, not to mention all the other horrible things someone could do.

When Lawrence was done I was flabbergasted. What a wakeup call! I went home and updated my Comcast Constant Guard, closed open ports on my computer, locked down my network, and started looking through my hard drive for strange files before encrypting it.

Some of the vulnerabilities you should be aware of but certainly not all.

- Backdoors
- Denial of Service
- Direct access
- Eavesdropping
- Exploits
- Indirect attacks
- Social Engineering



Common consumer devices that can be used to transfer data surreptitiously.

Well, happy April 15th and don't forget those taxes. I wish each of you a large return. then on the 16th I'll see you at the Senior Center. Don't forget to bring that friend and come early enough to get a parking space.