WhatsApp Hack

Warning from the WO Disclosure

Recently, there has been several instances of individuals who have fallen victim to a hack of their WhatsApp account. The malicious yet simple attack relies on social engineering and user security complacency rather than any vulnerability in WhatsApp itself.

WhatsApp is linked to your phone number which means someone with knowledge of your number can input it into WhatsApp on their device and attempt to hijack your account.

After the hacker enters your phone number and presses the confirm button on their device, a six-digit verification text/SMS code is automatically sent to your phone. If ever you receive an unsolicited WhatsApp verification code to your phone, do not respond and do not share it because it is highly likely that someone is attempting to hack your account.

The hack relies on tricking users into giving up this verification code. Commonly, the attacker will pose as a friend/contact, having already obtained your details from a friend's hijacked WhatsApp or Facebook account, and send a message along the lines of "*WhatsApp needs to send me a code, but my SMS isn't working so I've asked them to send it to you instead. Can you forward it on*?"

Only when a hacker obtains and inputs the right verification code can your WhatsApp account be installed and enabled on another device. If successful, a hacker will have access to your account meaning they can see and message any phone number or on any group. The hijacker can even lock you out of your WhatsApp account by setting up two-factor authentication.

Solution and Prevention – Two-step verification

One strong defence against identity theft and account compromise is adding two-factor authentication which requires your phone and a security code. This quick solution is an easy way to ensure your messages remain private and it is recommended that two-step verification is set-up and enabled immediately.

· 	Open the WhatsApp app on your phone

· 	Go to Settings > Go to Account

· 	Go to Account

· 	Tap Two-step verification

· 	Enter and re-enter your six-digit custom PIN

· 	Enter and re-enter your email address

· 	Tap Save > Tap Done