

By: ~~April 2008~~ Popa, Security and Search Engines Editor

## [Hackers Compromise Webcams to Spy on Teens](#)

*Unfortunately, hackers do this, too*

Hacking a computer is somehow like a job for today's hackers but breaking into one's computers, taking control over the webcam and spying on him just to get some nude material is way too much. Unfortunately, this happens, too and it can't be stopped unless the vulnerable users get their computers more secure. Security company Sophos informs that there were several cases in the past when unprotected systems got hacked, the attackers aiming to control the webcam in order to spy on their victims. Moreover, a recent case underlines the need for better security when it comes to online teenagers as Daniel Lesiewicz, a 27-year-old man, broke into teenagers computers and forced them to pose naked in front of their webcams. His technique was quite simple: all he did was to make friends with other teenagers on the web and then sent a mail with some sort of malware which compromised their computers. Then, he threatened and forced the victims to pose naked online. Moreover, after he got the first pictures, a second user nicknamed "Dave" sent messages to the victims, threatening them that the photos would be published online if they didn't agree to pose again on their webcams. "Many young people may have poorly-defended PCs in their bedroom, leaving them potentially open to abuse. Although most malware these days is designed to steal money from its victims, clearly some hackers are being motivated by sexual kicks instead," said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for Sophos. "The message is simple: keep your PC protected against the latest threats with anti-malware software, security patches and firewalls, and if in any doubt unplug your webcam when you're not using it." As usual, security applications are the easiest and the fastest method to stay secure on such a dangerous virtual world. So, if you plan to make new friends online, be sure to download an update both your antivirus and your firewall before you meet somebody new.