

**609.87 COMPUTER CRIME; DEFINITIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Applicability.** For purposes of sections 609.87 to 609.891 and 609.8912 to 609.8913, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. **Access.** "Access" means to instruct, communicate with, store data in, or retrieve data from a computer, computer system, or computer network.

Subd. 2a. **Authorization.** "Authorization" means with the permission of the owner of the computer, computer system, computer network, computer software, or other property. Authorization may be limited by the owner by:

- (1) giving the user actual notice orally or in writing;
- (2) posting a written notice in a prominent location adjacent to the computer being used; or
- (3) using a notice displayed on or announced by the computer being used.

Subd. 3. **Computer.** "Computer" means an electronic device which performs logical, arithmetic or memory functions by the manipulations of signals, including but not limited to electronic or magnetic impulses.

Subd. 4. **Computer system.** "Computer system" means related, connected or unconnected, computers and peripheral equipment.

Subd. 5. **Computer network.** "Computer network" means the interconnection of a communication system with a computer through a remote terminal, or with two or more interconnected computers or computer systems, and includes private and public telecommunications networks.

Subd. 6. **Property.** "Property" includes, but is not limited to, electronically processed or produced data and information contained in a computer or computer software in either machine or human readable form.

Subd. 7. **Services.** "Services" includes but is not limited to, computer time, data processing, and storage functions.

Subd. 8. **Computer program.** "Computer program" means an instruction or statement or a series of instructions or statements, in a form acceptable to a computer, which directs the functioning of a computer system in a manner designed to provide appropriate products from the computer.

Subd. 9. **Computer software.** "Computer software" means a computer program or procedures, or associated documentation concerned with the operation of a computer.

Subd. 10. **Loss.** "Loss" means the greatest of the following:

- (1) the retail market value of the property or services involved;
- (2) the reasonable repair or replacement cost, whichever is less; or
- (3) the reasonable value of the damage created by the unavailability or lack of utility of the property or services involved until repair or replacement can be effected.

Subd. 11. **Computer security system.** "Computer security system" means a software program or computer device that is intended to protect the confidentiality and secrecy of data and information stored in or accessible through the computer system.

Subd. 12. **Destructive computer program.** "Destructive computer program" means a computer program that performs a destructive function or produces a destructive product. A

program performs a destructive function if it degrades performance of the affected computer, associated peripherals or a computer program; disables the computer, associated peripherals or a computer program; or destroys or alters computer programs or data. A program produces a destructive product if it produces unauthorized data, including data that make computer memory space unavailable; results in the unauthorized alteration of data or computer programs; or produces a destructive computer program, including a self-replicating computer program.

Subd. 13. **Encryption.** "Encryption" means any protective or disruptive measure, including but not limited to, cryptography, enciphering, or encoding that:

(1) causes or makes any data, information, image, program, signal, or sound unintelligible or unusable; or

(2) prevents, impedes, delays, or disrupts access to any data, information, image, program, signal, or sound.

Subd. 14. **Personal data.** "Personal data" means any computer property or computer program which contains records of the employment, salary, credit, or other financial or personal information relating to another person.

**History:** 1982 c 534 s 1; 1989 c 95 s 2,3; 1989 c 159 s 1; 1990 c 494 s 3,4; 1994 c 636 art 2 s 50; 2006 c 260 art 1 s 30-33