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## HACKING: THE NEW FACE OF CYBERCRIME IN NIGERIA

IFEANYI-AJUFO, Nnenna<sup>1</sup>  
and  
OBALUM, Dike Chijioke<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Law, Baze University, Abuja, Nigeria

<sup>2</sup>National Open University of Nigeria, Nigeria

### ABSTRACT

The digital age, though welcome on many fronts has brought on its heels a myriad of ills. As at 2011, there were nearly 2 billion internet users and over 5 billion mobile phone connections worldwide and about 294 billion emails and 5 billion phone messages were exchanged.<sup>1</sup> Most people around the world now depend on consistent access and accuracy of these communication channels,<sup>2</sup> where almost all our traditionally recognized dealings, are being done, thus attracting so many cyber crimes including hacking. This paper will analyse the threat of 'Hacking'<sup>3</sup> having become a huge concern for the law and presently trending, as the new face of cybercrime particularly for a jurisdiction like Nigeria with little or no cyber crime laws.

*Keywords:* Criminality, Hacking, Cyber crime, Nigeria

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<sup>1</sup> EUROPOL Public Information 'Internet Facilitated Organised Crime'. (The Hague: File No. 2530-264, January 2011)

<sup>2</sup> Office of Cyber Security and Information Assurance in the Cabinet Office. 'The cost of cybercrime', [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/60943/the-cost-of-cyber-crime-full-report.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/60943/the-cost-of-cyber-crime-full-report.pdf) Accessed 12/01/14

<sup>3</sup> Mine for emphasis