

# Offline Hacker

By: Oscar Zethner

Hi, my name is Stewie. I am 12 years old and the last couple of days were the weirdest days of my life.

**Tuesday (2038):** It was raining outside. I was reading a book to the sound of droplets hitting the window. Suddenly, I got a text message from a mysterious person. He calls himself, The Offline Hacker. The message said "I have interfered with your phone. You are no longer online- O.H.". I checked my reception just to see I didn't have any. Then I saw that my Wifi icon was missing too. I had no idea what was going on. For a minute, I was just sitting on my bed, thinking about the situation. I thought of telling my friend Jackson at school tomorrow.

**Wednesday:** I went to school and I gave Jackson a note into his locker. It said: **Meet me at the football field at 4:00 today. I have something important to tell you.** Surprisingly, nobody was on their phones today. Is it a new school rule- offline Wednesdays or something way bigger.

**Later that day:** I told Jackson what happened. For some weird reason, he said that he was on the same boat. He also mentioned that his tablet was offline too. We were both very surprised. Then it hit me. The hacker must have hacked everybody's phone. That is why no one was on their phone today! Jackson said it must be the first two stages of something big. Little did he know that he was right. When I came home my mom was watching the news on TV and I overheard "There is a terrible world crisis going on. All phones and tablets are OFFLINE!!!" As I went to bed, I knew that computers... were next.

**Thursday:** As I predicted computers are now offline as well. I quickly looked at the news, to see if there are any new updates about O.H. I was eating breakfast and found out that some computer geeks discovered that the hacker is in Prague?! That is where I live! So many questions popped up in my head. Who could it be? Do I know that person? Am I in danger? At school I told Jackson about the news. I could see on his face that he was shocked. My classmates and I had a weird competition of guessing who it was. The most common guess was Mr. Zanku, who was a guy selling things in a thrift store near Ms. Maria's (our biology teacher) house.

**Friday:** Everybody was talking about the Offline Hacker. Our teachers told us, that if we somehow found something out, then we should report it to the police. Our last class in school was history. One student told me:

"The Offline Hacker is so stupid. Why would he do all of this. In fact, I think that he..."

"The class has started young lads" our teacher informed us.

"We were just talking about the Offline Hacker" I said.

“Ya ya whatever, now today we will be learning about the vikings” our teacher said. That was weird. It’s like he didn’t want to talk about it.

**End of session:** Our teacher wrote “Have a nice weekend class-O.H.” on the board. I knew O.H. stands for Oliver Harold, but something was a little odd. I would have sworn, that I know that from something. I couldn’t stop thinking about it. When it was late at night, I had a theory. What if our history teacher is the Offline Hacker! Is it an odd coincidence who knows, but I will keep an eye on him.

**Monday:** I told Jackson my theory. My squad of friends (Jackson, Bob, Zack and I) watched Mr. Harold the whole day. Nothing suspicious happened, but we didn’t give up on our theory.

**Tuesday:** The school day was pretty normal. At the end of the day my friends and I wanted to follow Mr. Harold to get some clues. I agreed, because there was nothing else to do. We were following him in a not so obvious way. He entered the mall and he was heading for the toilet. My group decided that I should “go take a leak”. I was faster than him and managed to get to the bathroom first. I knew he was up to something. I sprinted to a bonus room at the toilet, where workers were storing toilet paper. I hid in an empty cardboard box. He went to a toilet and he locked the door. He just waited there, until there was no one in the bathroom. After that he left the toilet and I saw him put a poster on the entering door saying “UNDER CONSTRUCTION”. He checked every toilet cell and even went to the storage room. My heart froze. I couldn’t even breath. Silence. He went to a corner that was the furthest away from the entering door. I peeked out. He did something I would never expect. He took out his phone and called someone. His phone was working! He said:

“Hi it’s Oliver. I am almost done with the techno-push. Ya I am all alone. It is just the TV’s that are bugging me. Their tough to hack. Ya, I know. Soon enough, soon enough. OK, I will call you next Friday at 5:00pm. Bye”

I saw him go out of the room and get rid of the poster. Then I left the bathroom. I told it to my friends right away. They were all very surprised and pumped up. If we tell the police, then we hit the jackpot. All we need is evidence. Bob told me that there is a feature on every phone (that I didn’t even know about), that you can listen to your calls again. If the police go to his calls and listen to it then they can catch him red handed. We went to the nearest police station and told them that we know something about the Offline Hacker. They looked at us like we were goofing around. They said if this isn’t true then they will tell our parents about it. We told them everything. Then They went to Mr. Harold’s house and asked him if they can check his phone. They listened to his call. They managed to catch him red handed! At the end they sent him to jail for 10 years, for committing a crime of world disturbance. When they asked him why he was doing it he told them:

“A group of people and I made a secret society. We wanted to teach everyone what it is like to live without electronic devices. We want them to know what it was like in the good old days. So, we decided that our goal was to wipe out all electronics.”

A couple of days later Mr. Harold put everything back to normal. The police also tracked down the gang and put them into jail too.

**Well that was one really odd week.**