Introduction to Cyber Security

Getting your bearings

CORY DOCTOROW:
Hi, I'm Cory Doctorow, and I'll be your guide through this 8 week course, catching up with you each week to recap on what we've covered and how it relates to what you'll be learning during the week. I used to be the European director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation. That's campaigning civil liberties group in San Francisco that, among other things, legalised the use of strong cryptography around the world and continues to be involved in a lot of important struggles. I'm also a visiting professor at the Open University, and I hold an honorary doctorate in Computer Science from the OU.

At the start of the course, you'll learn the basics of information security and how to take some easy steps to secure your digital life. We'll then begin to look under the hood, exploring some of the technologies underpinning the internet and information security. You'll see how data moves between computers over the internet, how it could be attacked, and how it can be kept secure.

What if you are attacked? We'll also be looking at ways to deal with the aftermath, as well as steps you can take to prevent any future attacks from being successful. By the end of the course, you'll know how to recognise online threats. You'll know what steps to take to reduce any chance of being harmed by them, and you'll know how to feel secure your digital life. This week you'll be learning some of the basic terminology used when discussing information security. You'll also start to learn about the different threats you'll face online.