

**Previously in Chapter 1 – What the Group Learned**

Rohan's laptop was hit by a Trojan, a worm, and ransomware — all from one "free game" download. Aryan, Priya, Naman, and Kavya helped him understand the four types of malware and Aryan's 7-step prevention plan. Rohan went home from Delhi with a cleaned device, an installed antivirus, and a much more careful attitude toward downloads. Now, **two months later**, the group meets someone new — Zara — whose "it's never happened to me" confidence is about to be tested.

**Honest Check – Before We Begin****Do You Agree or Disagree? – Circle Your Honest Answer**

No right or wrong here. Just be honest — nobody is checking your answers. This is about knowing where you stand *before* the chapter changes your thinking.

1. "Watching a movie on a piracy website is harmless — I'm not stealing anything, I'm just watching."

Agree

Disagree

Not Sure

2. "If cracked software has worked fine on my device for months, it means it's safe."

Agree

Disagree

Not Sure

3. "Clicking a suspicious link is only dangerous if you enter your password or bank details."

Agree

Disagree

Not Sure

4. "Everyone in my class uses piracy websites for movies and OTT — it can't be that serious."

Agree

Disagree

Not Sure

5. "A free version of Photoshop or MS Office downloaded from Google is basically the same as the paid version, just without cost."

Agree

Disagree

Not Sure

*Keep your answers in mind as you go through this chapter. At the end, you will revisit each one. You might be surprised how many change.*

**Quick Mapping – Your Digital Habits Right Now****Where Do You Actually Get Your Content? Be Honest.**

In your notebook, draw a quick table with two columns — **What I Watch/Use** and **Where I Get It From**. Fill in at least 5 rows honestly. Examples: movies, series, games, software (editing, coding), music, books/PDFs.

**Example table to draw in notebook:**

What I Watch / Use	Where I get it from
e.g. Bollywood movies	Write honestly...
e.g. Photo editing app	
e.g. Web series / OTT	
e.g. Games	
e.g. Study PDFs	

**Q1.**

Look at your mapping table. Put a ✓ next to anything you got from an official, paid, or legitimate source. Put a ? next to anything you're not 100% sure about. What did you notice?

Answer in your notebook

**Q2.**

Think of the last time someone shared a link in a WhatsApp group and you clicked it without checking where it went. What made you click? Write 1–2 honest sentences.

Answer in your notebook

## Risks of Pirated Content &amp; Cracked Software

 Meet the New Character – and the Conflict Begins
**Zara** NEW CHARACTER

Class 11 student from Aryan and Priya's school. Tech-savvy, loves Bollywood, K-dramas, and gaming. She is the person who always knows the latest streaming link, the cracked app, the "jugaad" for everything. Her attitude: *"I've been downloading and streaming this way for three years. Nothing has ever happened to me. Tumlog overthink karte ho!"*

She's not the villain — she's **every student in every class**. Her confidence comes from experience: she hasn't faced consequences yet. This chapter follows what happens when "yet" finally arrives.

 Scene 1 – School Library · Wednesday Afternoon · Movie Night Planning


ZARA

Guys — movie night at my place on Friday! I found the new Bollywood release on MoviezOnline. Full HD, no subscription needed. Also, I have cracked Photoshop on my laptop — free full version. You all can use it for the school project! 🖨️

Zara — wait. I know it feels fine because nothing has happened to you yet. But what you just described is exactly what got my cousin Rohan into serious trouble last month. Before Friday — hear me out.



ARYAN



ZARA

Come on Aryan! I've been watching pirated movies for THREE years. I've used cracked software since Class 8. My laptop is completely fine. I think you're just being paranoid. It's not like I'm hacking anyone. 😊

Zara, "nothing has happened yet" is not the same as "it's safe." Rohan said the exact same thing — right before his laptop got hit. Here's the thing though: the risks from piracy are different from malware. There are layers to this. Let me show you.




PRIYA

 Pause & Reflect
**Before We Go Further – A Moment of Honest Reflection**

Zara's response — *"I've been doing this for years, nothing happened"* — is one of the most common feelings students have about online risk. It's called **optimism bias**: the belief that bad things happen to other people, not us. It's not stupidity — it's a very human way of thinking. We all do it. The question is not "are you like Zara?" — most of us are. The question is: **what does the evidence actually say?**


**Q3.**

Think of something you do regularly that you know carries some risk — not just online, but in any area of life. Why do you keep doing it? Write 2 sentences honestly.

 Answer in your notebook

**Q4.**

Is Zara wrong for thinking the way she does? Or is she just uninformed? Is there a difference? Write your honest view in 2–3 sentences.

 Answer in your notebook

## Risks of Pirated Content &amp; Cracked Software

## ★ Myths vs Facts – Busting What "Everyone Knows"

Priya pulls out a list. "Zara, I've heard every one of these. Let me show you what's actually true."

✘ MYTH — what many students believe	✔ FACT — what the evidence actually shows
<p><b>Myth 1</b></p> <p>"Piracy websites only carry movies and music — they don't install anything on your device."</p>	<p><b>Reality</b></p> <p>Most piracy sites use <b>drive-by downloads</b> — malware that installs silently just by loading the page, even without clicking. Your device can be compromised before the movie even starts buffering.</p>
<p><b>Myth 2</b></p> <p>"Cracked software is just the real software with the license check removed — identical to the original."</p>	<p><b>Reality</b></p> <p>The <b>crack or keygen file</b> must run on your computer to bypass the license — and it IS the malware. Over <b>70% of cracked software packages</b> on sharing sites contain embedded Trojans or spyware. The crack file is the Trojan's delivery vehicle.</p>
<p><b>Myth 3</b></p> <p>"I only watch — I don't download files. So nothing can happen from a streaming site."</p>	<p><b>Reality</b></p> <p>Your browser <b>executes code from every page it loads</b>. Malicious ads, cryptojackers, and tracking scripts run the moment the page opens — with no download required. The browser is the entry point, not just the downloads folder.</p>
<p><b>Myth 4</b></p> <p>"I've used pirated software for years with no problem — my antivirus would have caught anything dangerous."</p>	<p><b>Reality</b></p> <p>Many Trojans in cracked software are designed to <b>disable antivirus first</b> — before doing anything else. Rohan's laptop in Chapter 1 is the exact example. "My antivirus didn't warn me" may simply mean the malware was smarter than the antivirus — not that nothing is there.</p>

### ✎ Questions – Based on the Myths vs Facts Above

#### Q5a.

Rohan installed cracked software. The crack file asked him to "disable antivirus before running." According to Myth 2, what does this instruction actually mean? Circle the correct option:

- The software needs antivirus off to install properly — it's a technical requirement
- The crack file contains malware that cannot survive antivirus detection
- Antivirus slows down installation — this is standard for large software
- The developer wants to protect their software from being flagged incorrectly

 Circle and write reason in notebook

#### Q5b.

Write T (True), F (False), or P (Partially True) for each statement. For every F or P — write the corrected version in your notebook.

"If a piracy site loads but you don't click anything, your device is completely safe."

"Cracked software is risky only during installation — once it works, the risk is over."

"Piracy only causes a financial problem — not a security or safety problem."

 Write T / F / P + correction in notebook

#### Q5c.

Which of the four myths do you think is most commonly believed by students your age — and why is it the hardest one to question? Write 2–3 sentences in your notebook.

 Answer in your notebook

## Risks of Pirated Content &amp; Cracked Software

## 🔗 What Actually Happens – The Hidden Chain

"Let me show you exactly what happens when you open a piracy site or install cracked software," says Naman, connecting his laptop to the school projector.

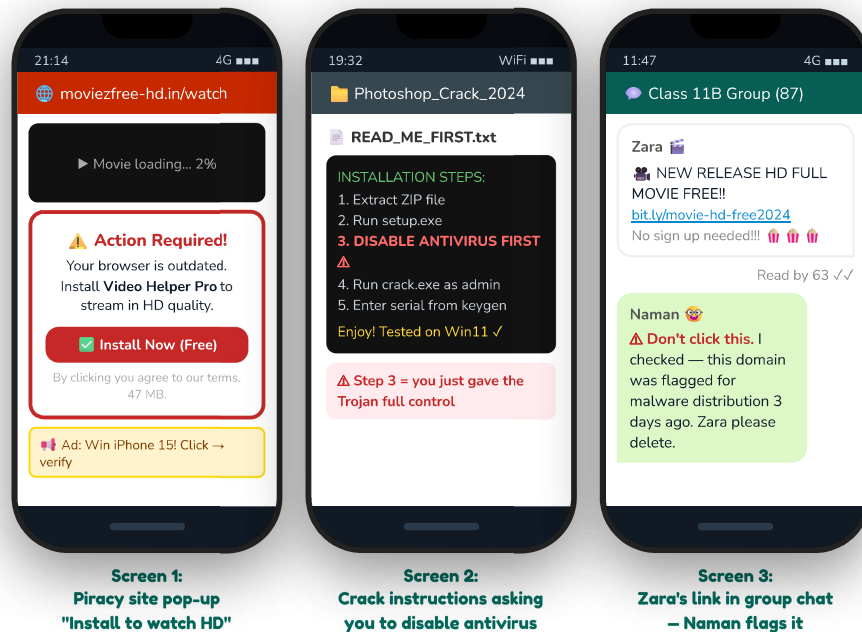
### 📺 What Happens on a Piracy Website

- 1 You click the streaming link — page loads in your browser
- 2 Page runs 30–80 ad scripts automatically — including malicious ones
- 3 Pop-up or redirect appears — "Install this to watch HD / verify you're human"
- 4 Cryptojacker or spyware installs silently via browser exploit
- 5 **Result:** device slows, battery drains, data stolen — movie plays normally so you never suspect

### 📁 What Happens with Cracked Software

- 1 You search **Photoshop crack free download**
- 2 ZIP file downloaded — contains installer + **crack.exe** or **keygen.exe**
- 3 Instructions say "**disable antivirus before running**" — you do it. Trojan now has full access.
- 4 Software works perfectly. **Backdoor opens in background** — steals passwords, banking data, camera access
- 5 **You use the software for months** — happily unaware. The Trojan has been active the entire time.

## 📱 What It Looks Like on Your Phone / Laptop



### Pause & Think!

Look at Screen 2 carefully: the crack instructions explicitly say "DISABLE ANTIVIRUS FIRST." Think about that — legitimate software never asks you to turn off your security to install it. That one instruction is the attacker's signature. The moment you follow that step, you have invited the Trojan in and locked the door behind it yourself. Any software that asks you to disable your antivirus is telling you it cannot survive your protection. That is a confession, not an instruction.

### Q6.

In your own words — explain the difference between "piracy risk" (from streaming sites) and "cracked software risk." Are they the same type of threat? Which do you think is more dangerous and why? Write a short paragraph (4–5 sentences) in your notebook.

📖 Answer in your notebook

## Risks of Pirated Content &amp; Cracked Software

 Key Concepts – The Vocabulary of Piracy Risk
**Pirated Content**

Movies, music, games, books, or software distributed without the creator's permission and without payment. Illegal under the **Copyright Act, 1957** in India.

**Cracked Software**

Software with its license protection bypassed using a **crack, keygen, or patch file**. These modifier files are almost always malware delivery vehicles.

**Cryptojacking**

Malware or browser scripts that **secretly use your device's processor** to mine cryptocurrency for the attacker — slowing your device and draining battery.

**Drive-by Download**

Malware that **installs automatically just by visiting a website** — no click required. Exploits unpatched browser or plugin vulnerabilities.

**Backdoor**

A secret access point a Trojan opens on your device, allowing an attacker to **enter, monitor, and control remotely** without your knowledge — potentially for months.

**Legal Risk**

Downloading or sharing pirated content in India can lead to **3 years imprisonment and fines up to ₹3 lakh** under the Copyright Act. Cyber café owners and uploaders face higher penalties.

 Numbers & Meaning – Data Snapshot
**Assume & Interpret – What Does the Data Say?**

✦ **Assume:** A digital safety research team studied piracy habits and security incidents among internet users in Indian cities. The four data points below are drawn from that study.

**1 in 2**

piracy website visitors had at least **one unwanted programme** installed on their device without their knowledge

**3 hrs**

median time for a new Bollywood release to appear on piracy sites **after theatrical release** in India

**61%**

of cracked software packages examined **contained embedded malware** — most commonly Trojans or spyware

**₹0**


is what a legitimate free alternative costs — LibreOffice, GIMP, DaVinci Resolve, Canva — for every major cracked software use case

**Q7a.**


The last data point says ₹0 — free legitimate alternatives exist for everything. If safe free options are available, why do you think students still choose pirated/cracked versions? Give two honest reasons.

 Write in notebook
**Q7b.**

The "1 in 2" statistic means that half the people visiting piracy sites get something installed without knowing. Zara has been visiting such sites for 3 years. What might this mean for her device right now?

 Write in notebook
**Go & Find Out**

Search online for a real case where piracy or cracked software caused a security problem — it could be an individual, a school, a business, or an institution in India or anywhere. In your notebook write: (a) What happened and who was affected? (b) How did the malware or risk enter — was it a piracy site, a crack file, or a suspicious link? (c) What could have been done differently to avoid it? Be ready to share your finding with the class in one minute.

 Research & write in notebook · Do this at home or in a free period

## Risks of Pirated Content &amp; Cracked Software

## Activity 1 – Suspicious or Safe? Analyse the Link

## 🔗 Read These Links – What Do They Tell You?

Naman shows the group a list of links shared in various WhatsApp groups and websites. Before clicking any link, you can learn a lot just by reading it carefully. For each link below, write in your notebook: (a) Safe  or Suspicious  — and (b) ONE specific feature of the link that gave it away.

#	Link / URL	Safe or Suspicious?	What gave it away?
1	<a href="https://www.netflix.com/in/login">https://www.netflix.com/in/login</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe <input type="checkbox"/> Susp.	Write in notebook...
2	<a href="http://netflix-free-india.xyz/watch">http://netflix-free-india.xyz/watch</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe <input type="checkbox"/> Susp.	
3	<a href="bit.ly/FREE-photoshop-crack-2024">bit.ly/FREE-photoshop-crack-2024</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe <input type="checkbox"/> Susp.	
4	<a href="https://libreoffice.org/download">https://libreoffice.org/download</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe <input type="checkbox"/> Susp.	
5	<a href="https://1337x.to/torrent/bollywood-hd">https://1337x.to/torrent/bollywood-hd</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe <input type="checkbox"/> Susp.	
6	<a href="http://free-jio-recharge-2024.in/claim">http://free-jio-recharge-2024.in/claim</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe <input type="checkbox"/> Susp.	
7	<a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.adobe">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.adobe</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> Safe <input type="checkbox"/> Susp.	

## Q8.

Write THREE rules you could follow to check any link before clicking it — based on what you noticed in the table above. Make your rules specific enough that anyone could use them.

📖 Answer in your notebook

## Activity 2 – What Should They Do?

## ⚖️ Zara's Friends Face Real Choices

Each situation below is based on a real choice students face regularly. For each: write in your notebook — (a) What is the risk? (b) What should the person do instead? (c) What is ONE free or safer alternative?

## Situation A – Simran, Amritsar

Simran needs Adobe Premiere for her school's short film project. The school doesn't have a license. She finds a "Premiere Pro 2024 Crack" ZIP file on a YouTube comment. The video has 1 lakh views and hundreds of comments saying "100% working, safe!"

## Situation B – Karan, Pune

Karan's family doesn't have a Netflix subscription. His classmate shares a Telegram channel with 50,000 members that uploads Netflix shows within hours of release, in HD. "The admin has been doing it for 2 years, it's completely safe."

## Situation C – Divya, Chennai

Divya receives a WhatsApp forward with a Google Drive link: "FREE — Full NCERT + Coaching Study Material for NEET 2025 — All subjects, all chapters — please share to 10 groups." She needs the material and it's from a trusted-seeming drive folder.

## Situation D – Rohan (evolved!)

Rohan — now back in Jaipur, wiser after his Ch1 experience — gets a message from his gaming group: "Bhai, this site has all new games cracked for free. I've used it 5 times, nothing happened." He's tempted. His laptop is finally clean.

📖 For each situation: Risk · What to do instead · One free/safe alternative

## Story – The Twist: Zara's "Safe" Laptop Speaks Up

### Scene 2 – Zara's Room · Friday Movie Night · 9:18 PM · The Laptop Slows Down



Aryan... the movie stopped. My laptop fan is going crazy. And there's a process called `XMRig.exe` using 94% of my CPU. I've never seen this before. What is it?

XMRig is a cryptominer. Your laptop has been mining Monero cryptocurrency for someone else, probably since you visited that movie site. Your CPU has been working at full load every time you went online. That's why it runs hot and your battery barely lasts 2 hours.



Zara, I want to say something — and please hear it kindly. You were not stupid or careless. You just didn't have this information. None of us knew all of this at the start. That's exactly why we're all learning together. Now — let's fix it.

### Think & Connect

#### It Takes Courage to Change Your Mind

Zara had three years of evidence that "nothing bad happened." She was confident — and that confidence was reasonable given what she knew. What changed wasn't her intelligence; it was her *information*. This is an important distinction: **being wrong because you lacked information is not the same as being careless**. What matters is what you do once you have better information.

In cybersecurity — and in life — one of the most important skills is the ability to update your beliefs when the evidence changes. That's not weakness. It's critical thinking.

#### Q9a.

Have you ever changed your mind about something important after learning new information? Describe the situation briefly — what did you believe before, and what made you change?

Notebook

#### Q9b.

Priya says to Zara: "You were not stupid — you just didn't have this information." Do you think this is true? Is there ever a point where "I didn't know" is no longer a valid reason? When does that line get crossed?

Notebook

#### Q9c.

Now that Zara knows about the risks — if she continues to use piracy sites, is that a different kind of decision than before? What has changed about her responsibility? Write 2–3 sentences.

Notebook

### Going Deeper – Think Harder

#### The "Everyone Does It" Argument – Is It Valid?

One of Zara's key arguments was: *"Everyone in my class does it — it can't be that serious."* This is a common form of reasoning. Analyse it carefully.

#### Q10a.

Give ONE example from history or current events where "everyone was doing it" turned out to be wrong or harmful. What does this tell you about using popularity as a measure of safety?

Answer in your notebook

#### Q10b.

Zara also said: *"I'm not hacking anyone — I'm just watching."* Using what you know from this chapter, explain why this line of thinking misunderstands how piracy risk works. Write 3–4 sentences.

Answer in your notebook

## Risks of Pirated Content &amp; Cracked Software

## ✓ The Safer Path – Free Legitimate Alternatives

"Zara, here's the thing," says Aryan. "You don't need piracy to get good tools. Legitimate free alternatives exist for almost everything."

### FREE Free & Legal – Use These Instead

#### Instead of cracked Photoshop

- ✓ GIMP (free, open source, full features)
- ✓ Canva (free tier, browser-based)
- ✓ Photopea (free, runs in browser, identical to Photoshop)

#### Instead of cracked MS Office

- ✓ LibreOffice (free, offline, full suite)
- ✓ Google Docs/Sheets (free, cloud)
- ✓ MS Office Online (free browser version)

#### Instead of pirated movies/shows

- ✓ YouTube (free with ads, huge Bollywood library)
- ✓ Doordarshan (free streaming, DD Free Dish)
- ✓ MX Player / Zee5 free tier (ad-supported, legal)

#### Instead of cracked video editors

- ✓ DaVinci Resolve (free, professional grade)
- ✓ CapCut (free, mobile & desktop)
- ✓ OpenShot (free, open source)

#### Instead of pirated music

- ✓ Spotify free tier (ad-supported)
- ✓ JioSaavn free (ad-supported)
- ✓ YouTube Music (free with ads)

#### Instead of pirated games

- ✓ Steam free games (hundreds of free titles)
- ✓ Epic Games Store (weekly free games)
- ✓ Play Store free games (official, safe)

## 🔒 Safe Browsing & Download Checklist – Aryan's 6 Rules

### 1 Check the URL before clicking

Look for https, official domain, no typos. `netflix.com` ≠ `netflix-hd.xyz`

### 2 Never disable your antivirus for any software

Legitimate software never requires this. That instruction is the attacker speaking.

### 3 Use free legitimate alternatives

GIMP, LibreOffice, DaVinci Resolve, YouTube — safe, legal, and free. Your security is worth more than zero-rupee savings on software you don't own.

### 4 Don't forward links you haven't verified

Sharing an unsafe link in your class group makes you part of the chain. Check the domain before forwarding anything.

### 5 Close pop-ups without clicking anything inside them

Never click "Allow," "Install," or "Verify" on pop-ups from sites you don't trust. Close the entire tab instead.

### 6 Check Task Manager for unknown processes

High CPU usage from an unfamiliar process (like Zara's `XMRIg.exe`) is a warning sign. Research anything you don't recognise.

## 📄 Return to Page 1 – Your Final Answers

### Have Your Answers Changed? Compare Then vs Now.

Go back to the 5 conflict statements on Page 1. In your notebook, write: Statement number | Original answer | New answer | What changed your thinking?

#### Q11.

Which statement surprised you most — where your answer changed the most drastically? In 3–4 sentences, explain what you now understand that you didn't before.

📖 Answer in your notebook

## 🔑 Key Takeaways – What You Learned Today

### 🎬 Piracy Sites Are Not Just Illegal — They're Dangerous

Drive-by downloads, cryptojackers, and malicious ads run without any click. The movie is the bait — your device is the target.

### 💾 The Crack File IS the Malware

Cracked software requires disabling your own security. That is the Trojan's entry strategy. "Working fine" doesn't mean safe.

### 🔗 Check Every Link Before You Click or Forward

Typo-squatted domains, shortened links, and "free" claims in URLs are red flags. Forwarding an unverified link makes you part of the risk chain.

### ✓ Free Legitimate Alternatives Exist for Everything

GIMP, LibreOffice, DaVinci Resolve, YouTube — professional quality, no risk, no legal trouble.

## 🏆 Zara, Aryan, Priya & Naman's Rule for Chapter 2

"Free isn't free when your device pays the price. If a link asks you to 'install to watch' or a file asks you to 'disable antivirus to run' — those are confessions, not instructions."

Safe Devices, Apps & Browsing · Module 2 · Chapter 2 → Next: Chapter 3 — Safe Download & Update Practices