



Spying on you: Cell phone snoops

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WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. -- Our deepest secrets are often told during cell phone conversations. Could you imagine if someone would have constant access to your personal information by tapping into your cell phone and listening to your private conversations?

Chai Chaiyanan and his fellow college students are chatting, not knowing danger is about to walk by. A man swiped his smart phone. What the stranger is about to do is nothing short of spying. He's planting a special application that can turn Chai's phone against him, his every move monitored by a mobile spy app.

Turns out the scenario is not a real one and Chai knew he was being spied on. But FIU technology professor Faisal Kaleem, who posed for CBS 12 as our bad guy, says it can happen to you as long as you leave your phone unattended.

Kaleem is talking about powerful apps like Flexispy and others, that once secretly installed are hidden in your phone and untraceable to you.

Room bugging is one function. The bad guy calls the victim's cell and it instantly activates the phone like a microphone. The bad guy can monitor our conversation and the phone appears to be off.

A text alert is immediately sent to the phone snoop, letting him know a call has been made from the victim's cell. He simply calls the phone and listens in. Two people who have no clue a third person has joined in their conversation.

"Scary, too scary. I don't want to think about it," said student Narueporn Nartasilp.

Nartasilpa took part in our experiment. Each moment, growing more alarmed at the additional uses of these spy apps.

Emails and text messages can also be monitored. Let's say a friend sends a text to the victim's phone, as soon as the compromised cell receives the text, it's intercepted and forwarded to the spy's online account. He can monitor everything that happens on your phone, including tracking your location as long as the phone has a GPS on it.

So how do you keep this from happening to you? The professor says you should always password protect your phone as well. And there are some ways to tell if your phone has been compromised.

Minor glitches are tell-tale signs: batteries draining more quickly, quick surges or blinks, and hearing the call waiting tone when no one's calling. The bottom line: the danger is here and anyone can spy on you.

