Summary Post

As the world progressively relies on online technologies and as organisations move swiftly into the digital era, the importance of cybersecurity becomes a key focus area. Cybersecurity can be considered as the practice of ensuring Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability (CIA) of information. Confidentiality refers to the controlled access to information, Integrity refers to data that should not be altered in any way and Availability refers to the reliability and uninterrupted access to data (Danso, 2021).

The Cyber Security Breaches Survey 2020 confirms that data breaches are ever-increasing. A major contributor worldwide is the rise in the use of IoT (Internet of Things) devices elaborated in detail in a peer response by Onyeemeosi (2021). According to Kaplan et al. (2019) when companies purchase IoT devices, strong cybersecurity controls is considered first.

Data breaches can have a range of damaging consequences to any organisation as observed in the collaborate learning discussions as well as in the case of Marriott International (Starwood hotels, 2018). Various known attacks are still being used such as Malware (malicious software), Spear Phishing (targeting a specific individual), Advance Persistent Threats (hackers remain hidden collecting data to further infiltrate), etc. Ranson (2021) highlights the detail of Spear phishing and its effects on organisations. Madrid (2021) delves deep into APT attacks and the protection mechanisms that organisations should introduce to mitigate these attacks - a view that the writer agrees with. These attacks can severely damage a company’s reputation as well as destroy its competitive advantage.

Research suggests that cybersecurity affects the global economy. While companies continue to invest in the latest cybersecurity technologies (Grand View Research, 2021), this will not ensure that companies are 100% cyber-attack proof (VanSyckel, 2018). It is therefore important to understand cyber-risks as well as create a cybersecurity culture within the organisation that shares a common way of thinking; in doing so security across the entire organisation is enhanced (Boehm et al., 2019).

Reference List

Boehm, J., Curcio, N., Merrath, P., Shenton, L., Stahle, T., McKinsey & Company. (2019). *The risk-based approach to cybersecurity*. Available from: [**https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/risk-and-resilience/our-insights/the-risk-based-approach-to-cybersecurity**](https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/risk-and-resilience/our-insights/the-risk-based-approach-to-cybersecurity) [Accessed 29 August 2021].

Danso, S. (2021) *Launching into cyber security*[Lecturecast].LCYS\_PCOM7E August 2021 Launching into Cyber Security. University of Essex Online.

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (2020) *Cyber Security Breaches Survey 2020.*Available from: [**https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/893399/Cyber\_Security\_Breaches\_Survey\_2020\_Statistical\_Release\_180620.pdf**](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/893399/Cyber_Security_Breaches_Survey_2020_Statistical_Release_180620.pdf)[Accessed 29 August 2021].

Grand View Research (2021) *Cyber Security Market Trends & Growth Report 2021*. Available from: [**https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/cyber-security-market**](https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/cyber-security-market) [Accessed 29 August 2021]

Kaplan, J., Richter, W., Ware, D., McKinsey & Company. (2019). *Cybersecurity: Linchpin of the digital enterprise*. Available from: [**https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/risk-and-resilience/our-insights/cybersecurity-linchpin-of-the-digital-enterprise**](https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/risk-and-resilience/our-insights/cybersecurity-linchpin-of-the-digital-enterprise) [Accessed 29 August 2021]

Madrid, A. (2021). ’Collaborative Learning Discussion 1’. Peer response submitted to University of Essex Online for [LCYS\_PCOM7E August 2021] Initial Post by Zihaad Khan. Available from: https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/hsuforum/discuss.php?d=270234 [Accessed 30 August 2021].

Onyeemeosi, K. (2021). ’Collaborative Learning Discussion 1’. Peer response submitted to University of Essex Online for [LCYS\_PCOM7E August 2021] Initial Post by Zihaad Khan. Available from: https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/hsuforum/discuss.php?d=270234 [Accessed 30 August 2021].

Ranson, T. (2021). ’Collaborative Learning Discussion 1’. Peer response submitted to University of Essex Online for [LCYS\_PCOM7E August 2021] Initial Post by Zihaad Khan. Available from: https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/hsuforum/discuss.php?d=270234 [Accessed 30 August 2021].

Starwood hotels. (2018). *Original notice from November 30, 2018*. Available from: [**http://starwoodstag.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/us-en\_First-Response.pdf**](http://starwoodstag.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/us-en_First-Response.pdf) [Accessed 29 August 2021]

VanSyckel, L (2018) *Sealevel Systems White Paper - Introducing Cybersecurity*. Available from [**https://www.sealevel.com/support/white-paper-introducing-cybersecurity/**](https://www.sealevel.com/support/white-paper-introducing-cybersecurity/) [Accessed 29 August 2021]