Academic skills and Team Based Learning

Workshop

Week 7

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Research on 5 top cyber attacks that happened in 2022 and write a paragraph on each.

As per my research, the top 5 cyber-attacks that happened around the world in 2022 are as follows:

1. Russia - Ukraine war
2. Twitter - Social Engineering Attack
3. Microsoft - Follina exploit
4. Costa Rica - State of Emergency
5. Optus – Data Breach

The explanation of each of these cyber-attacks is given below:

1. Russia – Ukraine war

As we all know, conflict between Russia and Ukraine began long time ago. In 2014, Russia forcefully acquired a part of Ukraine called Crimea. It all began after that. In 2022, the attacks of Russia on Ukraine became intense. In February-March 2022, Russian hackers attacked Ukraine's government and military networks. (Edith Cowan University, 2023). This attack took place in series, and it caused huge impact and some irreversible damage on Ukraine and Ukrainians. The cyber-attacks caused an undermining of the distribution of medicine and food. The Russian cyber attackers also attacked with the malicious softwares which caused loss of service, wiping of data and lots of information was also stolen. (MILLER, 2023)

2. Twitter – Social Engineering Attack

In August 2022, the Twitter accounts of millions of users were stolen from a social engineering attack. Twitter revealed that a hacker who stated his name as *Alias* had exploited a bug to link phone numbers and emails to the accounts of users in the social media platform. The hacker put the accounts on sale on dark web. The hacker has asked for a ransom of 30,000$ for the data. Twitter tried to handle the situation by contacting the owners of the affected accounts and advising them to use two factor authentication to protect their account from unwanted login. (Agile IT, 2023)

3. Microsoft – Follina Exploit

The Follina exploit took place in May 2022. Microsoft was targeted by a group of hackers called Follina. This exploit was a malicious word file which could be received through email. Once a person opens the file, the malicious document can access the URL that downloads some java script and runs some malicious code in the Microsoft Support Diagnostic Tool. Follina group made Microsoft's server vulnerable. (NordLayer, 2022) This vulnerability is still there in many versions of Microsoft windows, and it can be exploited through different versions of Microsoft office including Office 365 and office proplus. (MILLER, 2023)

4. Costa Rica – State of Emergency

The banking system of Costa Rica was attacked in February 2022. After being attacked, Costa Rica declared a state of emergency. The hacker demanded some amount of ransom. This attack affected various public institutions like the ministry of finance and social security. It led to the complete shutting down of the government. The attackers happened to be a group called Conti. This attack was also called ransomware attack. The attack took place again in May 2022. There were rumors that this group was linked to Russia. (Edith Cowan University, 2023)

5. Optus – Data Breach

Optus is one of the largest Telecommunication Company in the world. It is situated in Australia. In September 2022, the data breach of Optus took place which made millions of clients records vulnerable. This data breach was said to be caused due to poor security. It is also a kind of ransomware cyber attack and the attacker had asked for a million-dollar ransom to provide the stolen data. It has still not been figured out and it might be possible that the data is already spread across the dark web. (NordLayer, 2022)

References

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