

## TITLE

### ‘Why is cybersecurity important in today’s generation?’

- Topic Summary

In today’s interconnected and digitally reliant world, whether we look at the financial aspects where online payments are slowly taking over the cash payments<sup>1</sup>, or we look at the social and entertainment aspects, for instance, OTT platforms like Netflix taking over cinemas, and social apps influencing the lives of our generation to an enormous extent.<sup>2</sup> In such circumstances, the question of why cybersecurity is important transcends mere technical concerns; it dives into the ocean of our very own personal lives, the durability of businesses, the stability of societies at large.<sup>3</sup> With rapid advancements in the fields of technology and science, humans have witnessed some astonishing inventions, discoveries, and what not.<sup>4</sup> This rapid advancement has brought unparalleled convenience, but along with it, a growing vulnerability to cyber threats and online scams, etc.<sup>5</sup> The advancement in technology and science has its pros and cons, while cyber threats and online scamming being one of the cons. This topic explores the critical role of cybersecurity in our lives, living in this modern era; aiming to discuss the implications of inadequate measures on individuals, businesses, and society.<sup>6</sup> We will try to talk about the evolving threat landscape and the need for proactive cybersecurity measures to safeguard personal privacy, business operations, and preserve the well-being of the community.<sup>7</sup> If we talk concisely about our topic, it can be said that what are the reasons or why is actually cybersecurity so important nowadays? We will discuss this question with some people and will try to find a concise answer.

- Discussion (Humais Hassan)

Note: Because my group and question were approved on Friday, so I wasn’t able to discuss the question with our seniors as I had planned to do so. Because we had a long weekend coming ahead, and it is Christmas on Monday so it will be a holiday as well. So according to the guidelines, we were allowed to discuss this with anyone so I decided to discuss it with my brother and sister.

The first person I discussed this topic with is my brother **Tahoor**, who has completed his **graduation (BBA, MBA)** from **UET, Lahore**. I asked him the question directly that “why is cybersecurity important?”. And at first, his answers were the usual stuff like scamming has become very common nowadays. And that’s a widely accepted fact, there is no doubt about that. Then I asked him, “Do you think enough efforts are being made to ensure the security of people from such issues and problems by the authorities concerned?”, and his answer was like a mixture of opinions. He said that “Like I have 3 bank accounts in different banks, and every bank has taken some measures to ensure the security of my money, like the text alerts, PIN code, double factor authentication and what not. But still I once heard that some people managed to install a device in some of the ATMs of a city in Pakistan, and when people used

those specific ATMs to withdraw their money from their bank accounts, the devices installed in the ATMs read the information on that card and then stored it. And then that group of scammers used that info to create a duplicate card with same exact info on it and they scammed a lot of people.” He went on, “so I think scammers would still find a way to scam people no matter what measures the authorities take, its more important that we raise awareness among people about such issues, that way we can handle this problem.” I said to him that my question is still unanswered bro, he said “Of course cybersecurity is important you have to use online banking systems and all, how would you pay for your spotify subscription if there was no online banking system, spotify wouldn’t even have existed if it were like that, so you need it, right? And then you also want your money to be safe in your sadapay account, right? So that is why cybersecurity is important.” His explanation really got me thinking. In today's world of fast technology, where everything's about making things easy, cybersecurity is like our silent protector, making sure our digital lives run smoothly. It's not just about keeping our money safe; it's about protecting the very heart of our online existence. When we're doing online stuff like buying things, chatting with friends, or picking what to watch, cybersecurity is like our unsung hero, quietly keeping us safe from potential dangers.

The second person that I talked to, is my sister **Tabinda**, who has completed her graduation **(BBA)**, from **KCU, Lahore**. I asked her the same question that “Why is cybersecurity so important in today’s generation, what is your perspective?”. She said that, in today’s modern world cybersecurity is crucial for someone like me, who loves posting and sharing my moments on social media with my close friends, so do most of the girls, and like this is where the importance of cybersecurity comes into play. I should feel safe, sharing my pictures on social media, even if it’s a private account. That is why social media is important.” She also talked about the financial aspect but that’s what my brother also talked about so I am not mentioning that so that is does not overlap. Moreover, she discussed the importance of raising awareness amongst women to think twice before trusting people online with their personal pictures and information, she also said that it is crucial for authorities to raise awareness amongst people especially women, although today, women are quite aware about such issues but still its important. Her view adds a fresh perspective to why cybersecurity matters nowadays. It's not just about keeping money safe; it's also about protecting our personal moments and privacy online, which is particularly important for women who often face more risks. She emphasized the need for continuous efforts to make people aware, saying that even though more people know about online safety, there's always room for more learning. This is especially true for women who use social media a lot. For Tabinda, cybersecurity isn't just a tech thing; it's a way to give people the power to be confident and safe while using the internet. So, it's not just about the technical stuff; it's about making sure everyone feels strong and secure in the digital world.

- Discussion (Rafay Hussain)

Note: I discussed the question with my friends, and I have tried to summarize the whole discussion below.

I asked my friend **Isra** a question stated, (why is cyber security important) but I also asked her to be precise on one specific thing which was that why our online data is so precious and vulnerable at the same time and her reply was this: Cyber security is really important specially in today's generation because majority of the work that a person does is online, in fact not only the work but a person spends majority of their time online, using different devices. Due to this majority of a person's data or u can say that basically his whole life is stored online, whether it be a credit card information, the address, phone number, photos, private photos and many other things depending on person to person. With the increasing popularity of AI and hacking and even the increasing numbers of programmers can be dangerous for us because if they hack into our online information, we are all finished. That is when cyber security becomes a life saver for us because it prevents hackers to hack into our online information and use it for wrong purposes. In our chat, Isra put it straight – this digital game is high-stakes. It's not just about convenience; it's about surviving in this online jungle. Our online info isn't just data; it's us, and that's what makes it precious. But if the wrong folks get in, it's a vulnerability. It's a race between us living our digital lives and someone trying to mess it up. So, cybersecurity? It's not just tech stuff. It's our guard, our protector, our digital bouncer. It's why our online world stays ours and doesn't turn into a crazy mess. It's like having a superhero for our data, making sure it stays safe in this big, sometimes risky, digital world.

I asked my friend Muhammad the same question stated, (why is cyber security important) but I also asked him to be precise on one specific thing which was that why our online data is so precious and vulnerable at the same time and his reply was a bit diff than the previous reply. His reply was: Our online data is more important in today's generation as compared to our physical belongings, because from setting a reminder to buying stocks and cars, everything is done online and that specific data can be hacked into and used for various reasons, for example stealing money from bank account, identity theft and even just erasing all your data. Even on the national level, if the governments' data is highly valuable and it can be extremely dangerous if that data got hacked because it contains every single piece of information about a province or a country and it can lead to weakness in public safety. So specifically in today's modern generation cyber security is highly useful to protect our important data that is stored online. In his words, our online data is the backbone of our daily tasks, from the simplest reminders to the biggest financial moves. Cyber security is like the gatekeeper, stopping the bad guys from messing with our lives. Imagine waking up to find your bank account empty, your identity stolen, or worse, all your online history gone. It's not just a scary thought; it's the reality we live in. And on the big stage, the national level, it's a whole different game. Muhammad made me

see the big picture. Governments hold data that, if messed with, could mess up a whole area. It's not just about individual safety; it's about the safety of lots of people. A breach could lead to chaos. So, when we talk about cyber security nowadays, it's not just about techy stuff. It's about keeping the core of our lives safe, whether it's our personal info or our country's important details. Muhammad's way of putting it made me realize that in this digital age, cyber security isn't a bonus; it's a must-have. It's the armor protecting our online lives and the keeper of our nations' crucial info. It's the reason we can trust the digital world to run smoothly without worrying about our data ending up in the wrong hands.

- Conclusion:

Summing it up, talking to Tahoor, Tabinda, Isra, and Muhammad gave us a clear picture of why cybersecurity is crucial in our digital world. It's not just about keeping money safe online; it's about protecting our personal lives, ensuring online experiences remain enjoyable, and making sure businesses and society stay strong. **To be more concise, in today's world, where we do a ton of things online – from shopping and socializing to managing our finances – cybersecurity plays a vital role. It's like a digital bodyguard that keeps our personal information safe from hackers and cyber threats. This is especially important because our lives are increasingly connected through the internet. Cybersecurity ensures that our online experiences remain secure and our sensitive data, like passwords and financial details, stay protected. It's essentially the guardian of our digital lives, making sure we can navigate the online world with confidence and peace of mind.**

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