Network Threats

Identify and describe 5 top threats to college network security.

One top threat is hacking and it is someone who purposely tries to gain unauthorised access so if a student would get hacked it wouldn't be a huge threat to the college as a whole but still not good for the student. However if a teacher would get hacked the hacker would have access to higher permission which could lead to serious consequences.

Another network threat would be phishing which fake emails or websites that try to trick the user into handing over their personal information. Anyone in the college could be affected by this as you keep your college email everywhere you go and could believe an email and send over important information. A simple way to understand this would be by calling yourself the bait and the person trying to steal your info is the fisherman.

Social engineering would be another type of network threat and it is a set of methods used by cybercriminals to deceive individuals into handing over information that they can use for fraudulent purposes. And This isn't the case for users getting information it is human error and human error creates the largest risk of data being compromised. It's not the technology that's the problem, it is us humans.

Malware is a software that is designed to gain access to your computer with malicious intent. Different types of malicious intent include disabling hardware, data theft, forced advertising, sending email spam, extorting money. And for a college this could be a massive problem as colleges have many students and for a person to take multiple information would be dangerous and not just the students but including the teachers that could have data stolen or even money.

My final network threat is the classic virus and a virus is a form of self-replicating software. And for a virus to enter a system it needs to be initiated by a user and the most common ways to get a computer virus are, downloading an email attachment, clicking on a confirmation button on a pop-up, downloading files such as movies or games from illegal websites. And for young students they may click on these without thinking especially on an email and this could lead to serious threats on all computers as one virus will spread across multiple computers.

All these types of network threats can impact on staff and students because private information can be shown on social media and it could lead to ruining them if the information isn't meant to be shared and can even be mentally draining as the information can be used against blackmail. And for staff this could also put them off working and teaching as they would be thinking about other information.

Dangers of careless use of social media? (derogatory posts about your boss etc.) That this can easily be found by students or even teachers in the college and can give you a negative reputation or even getting kicked out of the college and it is just completely disrespectful towards people and not just affecting your reputation but also affecting the health of the person, etc.

The college will monitor, possibly the IT side of teachers and the reason to monitor someone's online presence would be to check if the student wouldn't be on any websites that they shouldn't be on, etc.

The data protection act 2018 - this controls how your personal information is used by organisations, businesses or the government. They must make sure the information is : used fairly, lawfully and transparently, kept for no longer than is necessary and a few rights you have to this is that you will be informed about how your data is being used, access personal data and others. The main thing is to make sure that everyone's data is being used properly.

The copyright and patents act 1988 - Gives creators of digital media the rights to control how their work is used and distributed. The right to control the use of their material by third parties, for a fixed period of time.

The computer misuse act 1990 - This protects your personal data held by organisations from unauthorised access and modification). The act makes the following illegal.

Freedom of information act 2000 - This is the act that covers all recorded information held by a public authority. And this is for public authorities that spend money collected from taxpayers, and make decisions that can significantly affect many people's lives.