**Event Report 1**

Angel Empeno

University of South Florida

LIS4934: BSIS Senior Capstone

Professor Long

February 18, 2024

The event report I selected was a TED Talk about how humans are behind today's cybersecurity attacks. The speaker, Mark Burnette, described how computers will do as they are programmed each time. The input data will act in similar ways to reach the same results. In contrast, humans are likely to make errors regarding technology and are inclined to make mistakes when implementing security measures. It is crucial to enforce proper protocols and to train employees on the expectations of achieving successful security protection. Establishing consistency early on can accomplish equal results when avoiding cyber attackers.

Mark explained three ways people fall into cybercriminals tricks. Firstly, people are often too curious. He provided an interesting example that demonstrated how individuals are likely to make requests when receiving a gift is implied. They will trust what the individual says because it seems legitimate and trustworthy. Unfortunately, they were easily tricked and did not receive anything in return. People tend to be curious and ignore the results afterward until something happens. This can correlate with how cyber attackers lure individuals to click their links or files. Someone can find a random USB drive and plug it into a computer. This USB drive can contain malicious software that can affect the sensitive data on the computer.

Secondly, people are too trusting and helpful. They usually ignore the warning signs of a potential security breach due to trusting other individuals. Attackers know that people are unlikely to confront someone who appears to know what they are doing. The pattern creates opportunities for hackers to get individuals to obtain sensitive information. Individuals are too lenient when sharing excessive personal details on social media that can become valuable data for hackers. These details can be used in passwords or security questions that can be assumed quickly based on their social media. We must ensure we do not overshare online, as anyone can view our Internet profiles.

Lastly, people are uninformed. People need to understand the situation more to be susceptible to threats. Educating individuals on specific measures can reduce the risks of it happening. For instance, Mark pointed out that people’s passwords are either too easy or they use personal information about them. People see passwords as a hindrance rather than a strategic protection against hackers. This makes it easy for attackers to narrow down their passwords. To prevent these situations, you can use a passphrase for your passwords—either a line from a song or several words linked together using unique characters. Also, using two-factor authentication can help if a hacker can utilize your password. Two-factor authentication allows you to send a code to your phone number or email notifying you that someone is trying to access your account. Having solid passwords and robust defense systems will keep your company’s accounts from being at risk.

My reflective thoughts and impressions of the content were very informative for individuals seeking a career in technology. Most individuals looking to achieve a career in this field need to think about the risks and incidents that can occur from needing to be educated more about security protocols. Mark Burnette was knowledgeable in cybersecurity and provided excellent examples for each point he explained. I found the content I watched insightful and relevant to information studies and technology. It was insightful because I learned about the main points of cybersecurity threats throughout the workplace. Its relevance to information studies and technology will help enhance data protection and improve defense mechanisms within cybersecurity.

The video presentation focused on human error results from cybersecurity attacks. We do not compare it to computer programming as we cannot function with the same security measures. Humans are prone to make mistakes, but there are ways we can prevent it from happening. These explanations describe how people fall into these easily by being too curious, trustworthy, helpful, and uneducated. It is important to have secure networks and protocols in place to avoid these incidents from arising. I will implement these security measures in my future career as they can help keep me protected from potential hackers.

References

Burnette, M. (2019, March). *The Humanity Behind Cybersecurity Attacks*. Ted Conferences.

<https://www.ted.com/talks/mark_burnette_the_humanity_behind_cybersecurity_attacks?hasSummary=true>