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OBA # 8

Guide Questions:

1. What factors made Sony Pictures vulnerable to such a large-scale cyberattack, and how did the attackers exploit these weaknesses?

Outdated and Unpatched Systems

- Sony used old software that wasn't updated with the latest security fixes, making it easier for hackers to break in through known weaknesses.

Weak Network Segmentation and Poor Internal Security

- Sony's network wasn't properly divided, so once hackers got into one system, they could easily access other parts of the network without much resistance.

2. How did geopolitical motivations influence the nature and scale of the Sony hack compared to typical financially driven cyberattacks?

Political vs. Financial Objectives

- Unlike most hacks done for money, the Sony attack was driven by politics. North Korea targeted Sony to punish the company for releasing The Interview, a movie that mocked its leader, and to warn others against doing the same.

State Sponsorship and Resources

- Since a government backed the attack, it had more money, time, and expertise behind it. This made the operation more organized and sophisticated than ordinary financially motivated hacks.

3. What key lessons from the Sony breach can organizations apply today to strengthen their cybersecurity defenses and incident response plans?

Third-Party and Supply Chain Risk

- The Sony hack showed that companies must ensure their vendors and partners follow strong security practices. A single weak partner can expose the whole organization to cyberattacks

Strengthen Basic Cyber Hygiene

- Keep software and operating systems updated and patched. Enforce strong password policies and use multi-factor authentication (MFA).

Protect Sensitive Data

- Encrypt sensitive information, especially personally identifiable information (PII) and confidential business data, both in transit and at rest.