

Adrian N
an9905@rit.edu
CSEC.468.01
Risk Management for Information Security
Project Group – Social Engineering

As we know, Social engineering attacks have posed a serious security threat to cyberspace. However, there is much we have yet to know regarding what and how lead to the success of social engineering attacks. The paper I chose to analyze proposes a conceptual model which provides an integrative and structural perspective to describe how social engineering attacks work. Three core entities (effect mechanism, human vulnerability and attack method) are identified to help the understanding of how social engineering attacks take effect. In the paper titled, "Social Engineering in Cybersecurity: Effect Mechanisms, Human Vulnerabilities and Attack Methods" it states, "Similarity invites liking, dissimilarity leads to dislike. The more someone's attitudes are similar to our own, the more we will like the person [2]. On the contrary, we tend to decrease liking when getting to know someone and discovering the person is actually dissimilar [3]....Thus, it may be less effective that a social engineer (attacker) attempts to over-persuade the targets in a manner obviously against their inclination or thought" (Wang 11897). This excerpt is one of many in the paper in which discuss the psychological component in social engineering attacks. This goes in depth about the basics of every human, and what works persuasion wise. It speaks volumes about how social engineers will appeal to the victim in a positive way versus a negative way, so that they can further exploit this to their benefit in a potential attack later down the line. This paper can help our paper in many ways. My specific part of our paper is to speak about the psychology behind social engineering attacks and this paper does just that. This paper is more about psychology in humans as a whole, in which I can then make a connection to social engineering attacks in the paper. This also applies to risk management as a whole because of how efficient social engineering attacks are and how prevalent they are in the modern day. There is no technical tool that can stop social engineers, which makes the information about social engineers that much more vital. If we understand how these attackers work and what sectors in psychology specifically they go after, the more we can protect an organization.

References

- WANG, Z. (2021, January 14). Social Engineering in Cybersecurity: Effect Mechanisms, Human Vulnerabilities and Attack Methods. Retrieved October 20, 2021, from <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?arnumber=9323026>