

## **Unit 2 Blog Post**

According to Verizon's Data Breach Investigations report 2022, 82% of breaches are enabled by human error (Verizon, 2022). Regardless of technological advances and improvements in cybersecurity, human actions, malicious or otherwise, remains the biggest **risk** to security. Bad actors can take advantage of human error to **attack** through phishing, social engineering, and malware (Nobles, 2018).

Social engineering is a severe risk to **information security**, such that any human with access to information may be manipulated into passing this **control** to others. This may be in the form of impersonation, persuasion, or any number of other techniques whereby the target willingly hands over information such as passwords (Wang, 2020).

**Organisations** can help protect themselves and reduce human error through regular training and strict enforcement of cybersecurity **policy**. Regular reminders to employees to not share passwords for any reason, training to recognise phishing attacks and various other techniques can reduce the risk of breaches in an organisation. However, while humans are involved, the risk will always be present.

Many organisations underestimate the significant advantages of training and the effectiveness in reducing the number of breach events. One study showed that when companies spend more resources to train high-level management, it has a significant impact on the reduction of incidents. It is believed that awareness at an upper management level has a direct impact on the behaviour and awareness of employees. Better education at high level management can also inform them where best to focus their resources to protect the company (Kweon, 2019).

## **References**

Kweon, E., Lee, H., Chai, S. & Yoo, K (2019) The utility of Information Security Training and Education on Cybersecurity Incidents: An empirical evidence. *Information Systems Frontiers* 23: 361-373

Nobles, C. (2018) Botching Human Factors in Cybersecurity in Business Organisations. *Holistica Journal* 9(3): 71-88

Verizon (2022) Data Breach Investigations report 2022. Available from:  
<https://www.verizon.com/business/en-gb/resources/reports/dbir/2022/results-and-analysis-not-the-human-element/> [Accessed 11/12/22]

Wang, Z., Sun, L. & Zhu, H. (2020) Defining social engineering in Cybersecurity. *IEEE Access* 8: 85094-85115