**Mary Angelique T. Garcia October 16, 2023**

**BSIT 4-1 IT Elective 3**

Research one (1) software failure recorded in history and write a short reflection paper.

**The Morris Worm: A Cybersecurity Watershed Moment**

In the year 1998, the Morris Worm is remembered in computer history as an incident that drastically changed the way we see and approach cybersecurity. The worm was created by Robert Tappan Morris, who is a young computer science graduate student at Cornell University. The Morris Worm was designed to measure the size of the internet. However, due to a coding error, the worm ended up replicating excessively that caused significant disruption in internet services. The worm infected approximately 6,000 computers, which was roughly 10% of the internet at that time. Also, it exploited vulnerabilities in various Unix-based systems. It spread by exploiting known weaknesses, such as weak passwords and a Unix send mail debug mode that allowed the worm to replicate itself. As for the legal consequences, Robert Tappan Morris was charged and convicted of criminal hacking and a fine of $10,000, although the estimated cost of the damage is around $10 million.

Based on the Morris Worm incident, the worm's quick spread highlighted early computer systems' weaknesses, demonstrating the potential repercussions of insufficient cybersecurity. Moreover, this incident is unintended because Robert Tappan Morris did not perform that experiment to cause harm, yet the worm's uncontrolled replication resulted in significant damage. And this is where the ethical dimension of cybersecurity emphasizes the need and being responsible for the importance of understanding the potential impact of one's actions in the digital world. Lastly, this incident led to several organizations like the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT), which will response and disseminate vital cybersecurity information.

To sum things up, the Morris Worm incident reminded me of the need for vigilance and continuous improvement in the realm of cybersecurity. The incident serves as a cautionary tale, highlighting the far-reaching consequences of unchecked technological exploration. It underscores the responsibility that comes with innovation, urging us to approach the digital landscape with mindfulness and ethical consideration.