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**Assignment for Module 1.4**  
**6m-cloud-1.4-basic-security /assignment.md**

What happened?	Happened in May 2017, the WannaCry ransomware attack was a global cyber attack by the WannaCry ransomware cyptoworm. It targeted computers on the Windows OS by encrypting data and then demanding financial ramson in Bitcoin cryptocurrency (Wikipedia, 2024).
What is the effect?	The WannaCry ransomware attack affected around 230,000 computers worldwide. It had a significant financial impact and is estimated to cause \$4 billion in losses globally (Kaspersky, 2024).
How did it happen?	A hack, allegedly developed by the United States National Security Agency was used by the cybercriminals to take advantage of a vulnerability in the Windows OS. Microsoft released a security patch which addressed the vulnerability almost two months before the cyber attacks began but many people and companies do not update their OS regularly and were left vulnerable to the exploit.
How did they solve the problem?	As the security patch was already made available by Microsoft, computers running the Windows OS were urged to update their softwares and operating systems immediately.
How can we prevent this from happening again?	<p>There are a couple of protection steps we can take to prevent being a victim of a ransomware cyber attack.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regularly update your softwares and operating systems</li><li>• Don't click on suspicious links</li><li>• Don't open suspicious or untrusted email attachments</li><li>• Don't download from untrusted websites</li><li>• Don't plug in unknown USB drives to your computer</li><li>• Back up your data regularly which can mitigate the damages in the event you are a victim of a ramsonware attack</li></ul>

**References**

Wikipedia (2024) WannaCry ransomware attack. Available at:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WannaCry\\_ransomware\\_attack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WannaCry_ransomware_attack) (Accessed 24 June 2024).

Kaspersky (2024) What is WannaCry ransomware?. Available at:  
<https://www.kaspersky.com/resource-center/threats/ransomware-wannacry> (Accessed 24 June 2024).