CYBER ATTACK AFFECTS THOUSANDS

Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
1FUM-M1LA-55D

1 Warm-up

Have you or your company ever been affected by a cyber-attack? What did you do about it?

2 Key vocabulary

Match the words on the left to the definitions on the right.

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1.	a network	a.	a company or a business that has a particular purpose
2.	a cyber-attack	b.	a large amount of money that someone wants to set something free
3.	a ransom	c.	an effort made to damage a computer system using the internet
4.	an organisation	d.	a person who gets access to a computer system illegally
5.	a victim	e.	a person who is affected by a bad situation
6.	a virus	f.	a program that copies itself to stop a system from working normally
7.	a hacker	g.	a system of similar parts that are connected together
8.	a fault	h.	a weakness in a system or machine that stops it working correctly

3   Find the information

You are going to read an article about the world's largest cyber-attack. Guess the answers to the questions below and then check your answers by reading the text on the next page.

1. How many computers were affected since the attack started?

   a. 100,000   b. 200,000   c. 500,000

2. How much do the hackers want to unlock users' files?

   a. $300   b. $500   c. $1000

3. What will happen within 3 days if users don't pay the ransom?

   a. all their files will be deleted
   b. a virus will completely destroy their computer
   c. the ransom will double

4. On Monday, how much money had the hackers made from the attack?

   a. $38,000   b. $66,000   c. $94,000
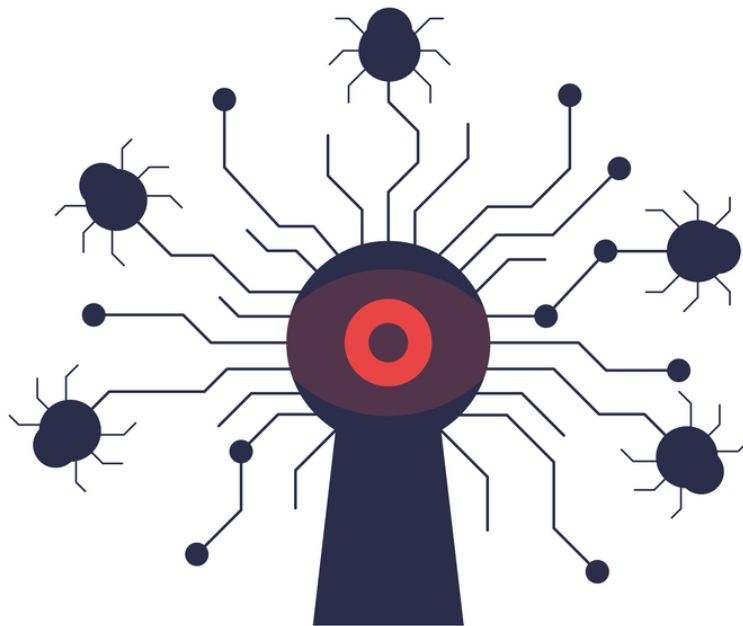
Cyber-attack should be a wake-up call, says Microsoft

15th of May 2017

1. The cyber-attack that has affected 150 countries around the world since Friday should be "a wake-up call" for governments, Microsoft says.

2. It blamed governments for storing data on software that was open to attack, which was then accessed by hackers. Microsoft said the latest virus took advantage of a weakness in Microsoft Windows that was noticed by US investigators. Information about this was stolen from the NSA (National Security Agency).

3. Many companies and organisations worldwide became victims of the WannaCry attack, including Britain's NHS (National Health Service), US courier service FedEx and French car maker Renault.

4. Russia was one of the countries that was badly affected, its Central Bank and government office computers were attacked by the virus.

5. In China, state media said more than 29,000 organisations across the country were affected, most of which were academic.

6. The virus takes control of users' files and demands $300 to get back access to data. To prevent new infections, many companies had experts working on the problem over the weekend.

7. More than 200,000 computers were affected since the attack began. By Monday, the virus was not spreading as fast, but people were still reporting cases.

8. On Monday morning, researchers found that only about $38,000 had been paid into the accounts linked to the attacks.

9. The virus threatens to delete files within seven days if the ransom is not paid, and also warns that the ransom amount will double after three days.

10. In a statement on Sunday, Microsoft president and chief legal officer Brad Smith criticised the way governments store information about security weaknesses in computer systems.

11. The company also said that many organisations had failed to keep their systems up-to-date, which allowed the virus to spread. Microsoft said they had released a Windows security update in March, but many users hadn't run it. He added that if customers didn't update their systems, there was no way for them to protect themselves against attacks.

12. Updating a personal computer can be very simple, but for an organisation like Britain's NHS, which was badly affected, it is expensive, complex and takes a lot of time.

13. The attack has also spread faster and more easily than previous ones. Once the virus infects one computer within a network, it can spread to all the computers in that network "within seconds," said Israel Levy, the CEO of the internet security firm Bufferzone.

14. For example, if one of your colleagues opens an infected PDF that is attached to an email, soon everyone in that office could be under attack.

15. Levy also said that six months ago, this problem didn't happen as this type of virus could only attack one machine at a time.

16. With help from a young security technician, the attack was stopped for a short time, but a new version of the virus soon started to infect computers again.

17. 22-year-old Marcus Hutchins, or 'MalwareTech', was called an "accidental hero" after he helped to slow down the progress of the virus. He bought a web address to track it, which stopped it by chance. The web security expert's boss gave him an extra week off work because of the unexpected events.

Sources: BBC News, CNN, The Telegraph

4 | Checking understanding

Put true (T) or false (F) next to each statement. Say why the false statements are false.

1. A fault in a Microsoft programme was the reason that hackers could attack computers with a virus.

2. Microsoft said that it was their fault that hackers could access files on government systems.

3. China has reported only a few cases of the virus.

4. Many Windows users had run security updates.

5. The virus could only attack one computer at a time.

6. A young tech expert managed to stop the progress of the virus for a short time when he was trying to find out where it came from.

5 | Find the words

Find a word or phrase in the article which means ...

1. a warning to take action to change something **(noun, P.1)**: _____

2. made use of (something) that will give you some benefits **(phrase, P.2)**: _____

3. people whose job it is to find out the facts about something **(noun - plural, P.2)**: _____

4. relating to education in universities and colleges **(adj., P.5)**: _____

5. containing the latest information **(adj., P.11)**: _____

6. happening before something else **(adj., P.13)**: _____

7. movement forward **(noun - uncountable, P.17)**: _____

8. a person who did a brave act but not on purpose **(phrase, P.17)**: _____

6 | Collocations

Match the verbs on the left to the words on the right to make collocations from the text.

1.	store	a.	cases
2.	prevent	b.	control
3.	spread	c.	data
4.	protect	d.	fast(er)
5.	report	e.	(new) infections
6.	take	f.	(themselves) against

7 Extra activity

Find five *verbs* in the text that are new or difficult for you and write a sentence with each.

8 Talking point

Discuss any of the questions below in pairs or small groups.

1. Who do you think is more to blame for this cyber-attack? Microsoft, governments or us? Why?

2. Do you think that all hackers want is money when they spread a virus? Why/why not?

3. What do you think that we can do to protect ourselves from future cyber-attacks?