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“Emotion and Security” critique

This article by Rose McDermot outlines the relationship between emotion and security within the topic of privacy. McDermot states how emotion can mislead users of technology to focus their efforts on security in area where it is most obvious. She states that high profile, low probability events are the focus of most information security. The fear behind people being attacked at a very high level, such as an attack on the pentagon, is much more relevant in peoples minds than a low profile, high probability attack such as malware being installed on a personal computer. The latter is a much more relevant attack to the standard user of technology. McDermot believes that communication technology, such as email, should provide clear and concise information on how to use them without compromising their privacy. These low profile, high probability events need to be highlighted in today’s technology-centric society. McDermot believes that if the right tools are used to explain these threats, more individuals are likely to comply to the methods of defending themselves against them. This means that a reputable source, such as the producers of the technology, need to provide their clients with the information needed to defend themselves and also the awareness to allow them to acknowledge that these threats are more of a real and present danger than any terrorist attack.

Works Cited

McDermott, Rose. "Privacy and Security: Emotion and Security." Association for Computing Machinery. *Communications of the ACM*, vol. 55, no. 2, 2012, pp. 35–37.