Thank you for your participation in the first discussion forum (Distinction) of Launching into Cybersecurity Module

In this discussion forum you were invited to discuss why cybersecurity is now a global issue and why it is important for companies to invest in cybersecurity. The learning outcomes from this discussion were: a) to be able to identify and explain the architecture, structure and functionality of basic components of a computer system, considering cybersecurity issues; b) evaluate critically implications of the key vulnerabilities and threats of software and network security and approaches to mitigate these issues.

# Knowledge and understanding of the topic issues under consideration

You demonstrate a very clear appreciation of the importance of Cybersecurity in your initial post, citing the De Beck (2020) report to suggest how investment in cybersecurity could lead to significant savings. You cite Advanced Persistent Threat and other forms of attacks experienced by Nissans for example, to demonstrate the implications of unsecured IT infrastructure. Your follow-up posts further demonstrated a clear depth of knowledge and understanding of the issue under consideration, drawing on examples from various sectors and perspectives.

## Collaboration / independent working

You build on points made by others by providing further data to support, which is excellent. You made a very decent number posts which further enriched the discussed. You made 9 posts in total (4 post in week1, 4 posts in week2 and 1 posts in week3). This clearly shows your ability to collaborate.

#### Criticality

You demonstrated a high level of criticality in your all your posts, drawing links between sectors and how these sectors are interlinked and therefore a cyberattack in one sector has direct consequence on others. Your point about some companies sacrificing security over competitiveness is an interesting one which you critically argued out the point. I would have expected to see you developing your argument further by drawing some distinction between sectors. You could for example, say that while this approach may be good for companies in certain sectors, this may be an appropriate

approach for companies that do not deal with sensitive data or mission critical applications.

### Structure and presentation

The structure of your presentation in your posts is excellent. All points were coherently made to advance the argument or discussion. Your summary post is well presented providing an overview of the various themes that emerged from the discussion.

## **Use of relevant resources / Academic Integrity**

You used relevant sources and correctly cited these sources to support your points. A range of reading has been consulted overall across your contributions which was good to see.

Overall, a very strong start to the module. To improve your grades further, do take note of the developmental areas highlighted above.