## **Part 3 - Cybersecurity Research**

1. Research major cybersecurity breaches over the past 20 years and pick one to write a short essay on.

The Friend Finder networks data breach of 2016.

1. Give an overview of what the breach was and the motivations behind it.

The website’s users’ user names, email addresses, and passwords were leaked. In addition private and public keys for the company’s servers, source code for credit card processing, user management in the billing database, and scripts for internal IT functions were also leaked. The passwords were not hashed, so a lot of people (15 million users had accounts on this website!) were at risk, and the website didn’t even send them an email to notify - just posted on their website.

1. Explain where the “tech flaws” were, and how hackers were able to breach their system.

Someone tweeted about finding vulnerabilities in the website that allowed unauthorized access into the data. Then a breach notification website got ahold of the data, source codes, access control lists, certificate keys, and configuration files. The passwords also were not hashed, they were stored in plain text or with a very weak protection method.

1. What has the company done to protect against that vulnerability since?

They had reportedly worked with the twitter user that originally identified the weak protections to fix it.