During the collaborative discussion 1, I found the usability is another important factor of cyber security. I was surprised some classmates have raised the MFA is difficult to deploy, and the users will have difficulties as using password becomes their habit.

This prompted me to research if the MFA is so difficult to deploy and not usable. I found that Microsoft (2021) has developed many options for the MFA, not only traditional tokens. Various ways and medias for the MFA including SMS, Voice phone calls, authenticator app, software and hardware tokens, security key and her own Windows Hello technology. The fact is, I can choose which authentication is easy and suitable for myself and other staffs.

To investigate the usability of MFA, if it is difficult for a user to use. I have tried to use the MFA on Microsoft Azure AD and 365. I have setup MFA by using SMS, Authenticator app, and Hello. The login process is step by step, which has clear instruction for a user. But a security admin may need to give a short course, or instruction to the staffs how to install the Authenticator app or read a text message and get the 5 digital OTP from SMS.

After these findings and realisations, I found a cyber security measure, not only secure but also has to be user friendly. I found it will be helpful for the users if provide basic training or short course, how to login with each authentication method, what they should be aware to, such as their mobile phone's security. As their mobile phones will play a role as a door key. After MFA has gone live. A proper end-user training will make the deployment easier and usable.

In the discussion, I also have discovered a classmate suggested by using static ARP to prevent Man-in-a-middle attack, besides deploying a passwordless MFA. I am confused how can we target so many MAC addresses on the allowed list of the routers and AP; also, how can we add or delete any guest users' devices dynamically. For example, doctor's private mobile phone or tablet, which may need to connect the medical Wi-Fi network in urgent. Also, there are many IoTs on the network. I concern how to deploy this technique effectively but at the same time, the network security measure is under managed.

This prompted me to read into how I can defend the man-of-the-middle attack effective, but make sure every trusted device can be connected to the network seamlessly, if there is any solution.

I found the Cisco Wireless Lan Controller (WLC) also able to do Dynamic ARP Inspection (DAI), which is a solution to stop any Man-in-the-middle attack. DAI is enabled on per-VLAN basis, the WLC records and compare ARP requests and responses, including the gratuitous ARPs (GARPs), only those clients with a valid MAC-IP mapping on the DHCP binding table will be able to continue the authentication process. Any ARP message and packet will be dropped and logged if there is no valid entry on the DHCP binding table. This will prevent any further ARP spoofing attack, but also eliminates any further network attack, such as SYNflood and DDOS, etc. (Cisco, 2021)

After the discussion, I realised ARP is another tool to defend the security of a network, besides of by using a secured authentication method, which can minimise

the probability of password cracking by the attackers. A secured ARP measure is helpful for me to deploy one more secure layer against every potential attack by the hackers. ARP also can eliminate untrusted devices to access our network. I also can make an account, how many devices are connecting to my network, by check the DHCP bind table and logs of the WLC.

During the basic testing and design document session with our team, I found myself need a better understanding of the Pen test tools, despite of basic scanning tools such as ping, traceroute and nslookup. I was surprised at how other classmates and team members of my group have used more advanced tool to do the testing, such as OWSAP and Nmap. I felt my knowledge of Pen Test and its tools are in-adequate.

This prompted me to research different tools I can use on the Pen test and their characteristics. I have done a clean install of Kali Linux (2021) OS on a notebook computer, which contains most of the tools for the Pen Test. The tools I have tested are Nmap, OWASP zap and what web. Furthermore, I also have installed Nessus manually for advanced Pen testing.

The testing and discovery of the Pen test tools helped me to prepare for the Pen test assignment in Unit 7. I also understand the specialisation of every tool, from Web server application and OS detection to the host location. I also found that OWASP zap and Nessus can do a comprehensive testing with detailed report.

After these trials, I found the Kali Linux is very helpful to do a deep, aggressive Pen test, I found that the tools have given much more detailed information than the 1st level scanning tools, such as ping, traceroute and nslookup.

References:

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