CTC 9

2d Lt Marvin Newlin

CSCE 525

Lt Col Reith

7 Nov 18

Social Engineering is a difficult strategy to defend against because it leverages the human element in the computer chain. Regardless of how secure we build our systems, if the people that use those systems give up legitimate information that allows access to the system, there is little we can do about it. However, there are some things we can do to mitigate this attack strategy.

Phishing attacks and its variants are one form of social engineering attack that can be mitigated through education. Educating users on the types of attacks that can occur is crucial to preventing phishing attacks. Another aspect of education on phishing attacks is to get across to the users the components of an attack, i.e. asking to go to links or entering credentials or other information (Saleem and Hammoudeh 2018).

Another aspect to counter social engineering is to use multi factor authentication. An example of this is the DoD CAC login of having the CAC and PIN to go with it. With this type of strategy, social engineering can only expose one part of it (i.e. the PIN). Then to access a system with this type of authentication requires additional effort like stealing the CAC which is a deterrent for social engineering. The key to stopping the social engineering side is having some part of the authentication that is physical and can only be provided by the actual person using the system and thus obfuscates the purpose of social engineering (“Social Engineering Attacks: Common Techniques &amp; How to Prevent an Attack | Digital Guardian” n.d.).

References

Saleem, Jibran, and Mohammad Hammoudeh. 2018. “Defense Methods Against Social Engineering Attacks.” In *Computer and Network Security Essentials*, 603–18. Cham: Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-58424-9\_35.

“Social Engineering Attacks: Common Techniques &amp; How to Prevent an Attack | Digital Guardian.” n.d. Accessed November 7, 2018. https://digitalguardian.com/blog/social-engineering-attacks-common-techniques-how-prevent-attack.