



BCIS 5740

Information Security Management

Assignment 1

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Facebook data Breach

Facebook was founded in Feb 2004 by Mark Zuckerberg. It was founded by a set of friends who were students at Harvard University. Facebook has become the largest social platform in the world. Its headquarters is in Menlo Park, California. The concept of its beginning is just to create a website where all the Harvard students can connect, but later, this concept changed and lots of other people registered on this platform, and it has become the world's most famous networking site. Roughly, 2.93 billion active users. Facebook claims that 44,942 full-time employees used to work here.

Facebook data breach leads to the exposure of 533 million individuals' personal information leaked to hackers. This personal information included users' name, date of birth, city, birthdays, Facebook IDs, some email addresses also and posts made by them on the Facebook page. The vulnerability of this situation is discovered by the white hat security group in 2021 and has existed since 2019.

This incident happened when cybercriminals scraped data from facebook's servers using a misconfiguration in their contact importer. As a result, this could lead them to gain access to the personal information of millions of people. While it's unclear what the criminals might do with this information, it could potentially be used for social engineering attacks on a large scale in future. As a result, the valuation of Facebook suddenly crashed. The company lost more than \$36 billion in market capitalization in a single day. Mark Zuckerberg's personal wealth fell by more than \$6 billion in a few hours, making him down in the list of the world's richest people. As he was the CEO of Facebook when this incident happened.

Microsoft Data Breach

Microsoft was founded on 4 April 1975 by Bill Gates and Paul G. Allen, two school friends, from Seattle. Microsoft's headquarters is in Redmond, WA. Microsoft used to own a total number of full-time employees as 1,81,000.

The Chinese hacking group known as Hafnium attacked Microsoft in March of 2021. The attack began when hackers used stolen passwords combined with previously undetected vulnerabilities on servers running Microsoft Exchange software. The vulnerability allowed any user who had physical or virtual access at the time of login to gain full administrative rights. In this way, the attackers logged in and installed malware that created command-and-control

proxies for their use.

To help with this kind of attack, Microsoft updates that its customers should immediately install all new software. In this case, the vulnerabilities were discovered, and patches were released by Microsoft in 2020, but many customers hadn't updated their systems. It was estimated that 2,50,000 people were affected from this attack, and around 30,000 organizations in the United States got affected from this.

Satya Nadella was the CEO of Microsoft when this incident happened. It was estimated that this incident caused an average worldwide loss of \$3.86 million.