



573 – Cyber Security

Midterm Exam

Examination Due, March 28 (take-home examination)

Komal Wavhal - 20034443



Student



Komal Wavhal CWID: 20034443

Cyber Attack

Sr. No	Company Name	Predicted Attack Date
1	World Health Organization (WHO)	February 20, 2026
2	FBI	March 25, 2026
3	NASA	May 7, 2026
4	Walmart	May 14, 2026
5	Apple	June 17, 2026
6	JP Morgan Chase & Co	June 30, 2026
7	Microsoft	July 25, 2026
8	Uber	August 9, 2026
9	Netflix	September 11, 2026
10	Zoom	October 8, 2026
11	Tik Tok	November 24, 2026
12	SpaceX	December 4, 2026

Sr. No	Company Name	Predicted Attack Date
13	Harvard University	March 22, 2027
14	Coca-Cola	April 1, 2027
15	Johns Hopkins Hospital	May 5, 2027
16	General Motors	June 22, 2027
17	City of Los Angeles	July 30, 2027
18	United Airlines	August 10, 2027
19	Target	August 19, 2027
20	The New York Times	September 4, 2027
21	Pfizer	October 15, 2027
22	Amazon	November 23, 2027
23	Bank of America	December 2, 2027
24	Tesla	December 8, 2027



WHO AI-Generated Deepfake Attack: The goal is to steal critical health data, disrupt programs, siphon funds, and impair WHO's ability to respond to global health crises.

Attack Description

- A sophisticated spear-phishing attack targets WHO employees using AI-generated deepfake technology to impersonate senior officials. Attackers send realistic emails and deepfake videos, tricking staff into revealing sensitive information or approving fraudulent transactions. Their goal is to steal confidential health data, such as vaccine research and epidemiological records, and divert funds meant for global health programs. By exploiting trusted leadership, they disrupt critical operations and undermine WHO's ability to respond to global health crises, potentially delaying responses to pandemics or disease outbreaks.
- Attackers gain unauthorized access to over 10 million records of global health data, including vaccine research data, disease surveillance reports, and sensitive treatment protocols.
- \$50 million in donations and grant funds are redirected to unauthorized accounts, impacting ongoing global health initiatives and emergency responses.
- WHO loses significant credibility, with several governments and international partners reconsidering their cooperation and funding, leading to a 20% reduction in future donations and potential delays in critical health programs.

Potential Impact

Theft of Critical Health Data and Research, Financial Fraud and Misappropriation of Funds, Disruption of Global Health Programs, Damage to WHO's Reputation and Trust

In this scenario, the attack leads to the theft of critical health data, including vital research on vaccines, treatment protocols, and disease surveillance. This data breach could undermine global efforts to manage health crises, slowing progress in combating epidemics or pandemics. Additionally, the attackers divert funds meant for important health programs, disrupting essential research and emergency responses. As a result, delays in global health initiatives occur, which especially hinders timely reactions during urgent health emergencies. Beyond the immediate impact, such an attack would severely damage WHO's credibility, eroding trust among governments, health partners, and donors. This loss of confidence would weaken future collaborations and financial support, impeding the organization's ability to address future health challenges effectively.





1. World Health Organization

Predicted Attack Date: February 20, 2026



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Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

AI-Powered Phishing Detection Systems, Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), Deepfake Detection Tools, Secure Communications Platform, Behavioral Analytics, Identity and Access Management (IAM)

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- ✓ Reduced Risk of Successful Phishing Attacks
- Faster Detection and Response to Attacks
- ✓ Stronger Reputation and Trust in WHO's Security Practices

- Advanced Email Filtering: Implement advanced phishing detection and filtering solutions that analyze both the content and context of incoming emails. This should include AI-powered filters to identify potential deepfakes in attachments or links, flagging any email that seems suspicious even if it appears to be from trusted sources.
- Regular Security Audits and Penetration Testing: Conduct frequent security audits and penetration testing to identify weaknesses in internal systems, particularly around email security and data access controls. This can help pinpoint vulnerabilities before attackers exploit them.
- Employee Training and Awareness Programs: Regularly educate WHO staff on the risks of spear-phishing, deepfake impersonation, and social engineering tactics. Provide specific examples of how attackers might use deepfake videos or emails to gain unauthorized access and emphasize the importance of verifying requests for sensitive information or funds, especially if they come from unfamiliar sources.



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Attack Scenario:

FBI Biometric Data Manipulation Attack: The goal is to exploit vulnerabilities in the FBI's biometric systems to impersonate individuals, alter evidence, and gain unauthorized access to secure facilities.

Attack Description

- Attackers target weaknesses in the FBI's biometric identification systems, including facial recognition and fingerprint databases, to gain unauthorized access to sensitive biometric data, such as facial recognition and fingerprint records, by exploiting misconfigurations or authentication protocol vulnerabilities.
- Once attackers gain control, they manipulate biometric data, creating fake profiles or altering existing identifiers, allowing them to impersonate individuals—including FBI agents or high-profile targets.
- Attackers can alter biometric data used in ongoing investigations, leading to false identifications or the planting of evidence.
- Exploiting compromised biometric systems allows attackers to bypass access control measures in highly secure locations, including FBI offices and classified government buildings, facilitating theft of sensitive information and compromising national security operations.
- The attack could end up costing hundreds of millions, not just from the damage to national security, but also from the need to rebuild compromised systems and deal with legal fallout. On top of that, it could shake public trust in biometric security, possibly causing a 38% drop in future investments.

Potential Impact

Compromise of Biometric Data and Identification Systems, Impersonation of Individuals, Leading to Fraud or Other Crimes, Manipulation of Evidence in Criminal Investigations, Unauthorized Access to Secure Facilities or Sensitive Information

- False identification systems, which are crucial for law enforcement and national security. False identification and impersonation could undermine the security and reliability of these systems, leaving them vulnerable to misuse. Manipulated data could allow attackers to impersonate high-profile individuals, such as law enforcement agents or government officials, potentially leading to identity theft, fraud, or other criminal activities, posing serious security threats.
- Altering biometric data could disrupt criminal investigations, potentially leading to wrongful convictions or the wrongful release of individuals due to tampered evidence, which would damage the integrity of the justice system. Finally, compromised biometric data could allow attackers to bypass physical access controls, granting them unauthorized entry into secure facilities, classified locations, or government buildings. This could lead to the theft of sensitive information, jeopardizing national security and intelligence operations.



2. FBI

Predicted Attack Date: March 25, 2026



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Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

Role-Based Access Control (RBAC), Data Integrity Mechanisms, Employee Training & Awareness Programs, Backup & Disaster Recovery Solutions, Encryption, Anomaly Detection Systems

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- ✓ Increased Security of Biometric Systems
- Prevention of Unauthorized Access
- Enhanced Detection of Threats
- Restoration of Operations
- Protection of Data Integrity

- AI-Driven Threat Detection and Behavioral Analytics: The FBI should deploy advanced AI-driven anomaly detection tools to identify unusual activity in biometric systems. This would help spot any attempts to manipulate biometric data or gain unauthorized access. Behavioral analytics can also be used to detect deviations in user behavior, further enhancing security by identifying unauthorized access attempts or data manipulation.
- Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for Biometric Access: Multi-factor authentication should be used to add an additional layer of security to all systems that rely on biometric data. This could include pairing biometric verification (e.g., fingerprint or facial recognition) with another form of authentication, such as a physical token, PIN, or password. This would reduce the risk of unauthorized access even if one layer of security is bypassed.
- Data Integrity Checks-Digital Signatures, Employee Training/Awareness Programs and Backup-Disaster Recovery Plans: To secure biometric data, strict role-based access control (RBAC) should be enforced, ensuring only authorized personnel can access sensitive information. Data integrity checks and digital signatures should be implemented to detect unauthorized changes, while ongoing employee training on security best practices reduces human error. Additionally, robust backup and disaster recovery plans must be in place to quickly restore systems and maintain data integrity in the event of a breach.



3. NASA
Predicted Attack Date: May 7, 2026

Attack Scenario:

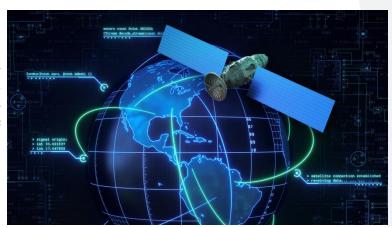
NASA Satellite Control Hack: The goal is to manipulate satellite systems, steal critical space mission data, manipulate satellite systems, and sell sensitive scientific research on the Dark Web and disrupt communication with spacecraft, compromising NASA's operations

Attack Description

- Hackers target vulnerabilities in NASA's internal network, specifically focusing on satellite control systems and research data repositories. Through advanced phishing schemes and the deployment of malware, attackers gain unauthorized access to critical space mission data, including satellite telemetry, control protocols, and sensitive scientific research files.
- Their aim is to manipulate mission data, steal intellectual property, or disrupt communication between NASA and its spacecraft.
- The stolen data, including satellite telemetry and research findings, is offered for sale on the Dark Web for a significant sum, with some valuable scientific data reportedly fetching over \$500,000.

Potential Impact

- Disruption of Space Missions and Operations, Theft of Valuable Scientific Data, Financial Loss and Reputation Damage, Delays in Scientific Advancements
- The attack on NASA could disrupt space missions by manipulating satellite navigation systems, leading to potential spacecraft loss or misdirection. Stolen research data would undermine years of scientific progress, affecting space exploration and environmental studies. The sale of this sensitive information on the Dark Web would result in significant financial losses and harm NASA's reputation. Additionally, any theft or manipulation of mission data could delay crucial scientific advancements, hindering progress in space science and climate research.





Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

Space Asset Security Scientific Data Security Anomaly Detection International Collaboration

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- Protection of valuable scientific data and advancements
- Reduced risk of cyberattacks disrupting scientific endeavors
- Enhanced security and resilience of NASA's space-based research assets

- Multi-factor authentication (MFA) for all system access, along with end-to-end encryption of communication channels, could have prevented unauthorized access.
- Regular **penetration testing** to identify vulnerabilities in both satellite systems and internal networks.
- Enhanced **security training** for employees to identify phishing attempts and prevent malware infections.
- > Use of AI-driven threat detection systems to monitor all systems in real-time and identify abnormal activities related to mission data access.



Walmart E-Commerce Data Breach: The goal is to exploit vulnerabilities in Walmart's delivery and payment systems to steal customer data, hijack delivery vehicles, and sell sensitive information on the Dark Web, disrupting e-commerce operations.

Attack Description

- Hackers target vulnerabilities in Walmart's autonomous delivery systems and e-commerce platform, exploiting weaknesses to hijack delivery vehicles, steal packages, and access sensitive customer data.
- The attackers deploy advanced phishing and malware to gain unauthorized access to customer payment data and personal information stored in the system.
- Using botnets, the hackers launch a massive data scraping attack, extracting sensitive credit card numbers, addresses, and order history of millions of customers. The stolen data is then sold on the Dark Web for an estimated \$890,000.

Potential Impact

- Compromise of Customer Data, Loss of Customer Trust, Legal and Regulatory Consequences, Reputation Damage.
- The attack on Walmart compromises customer data, leading to identity theft and financial fraud. It results in a significant loss of customer trust, with consumers wary of shopping online due to security concerns. The breach may also trigger legal and regulatory consequences, including fines for violations of GDPR and consumer protection laws. Additionally, Walmart's reputation suffers, causing a decline in market share and trust in their e-commerce services.



4. Walmart

Predicted Attack Date: May 14, 2026



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Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

Autonomous Vehicle Security, Delivery Security, Anomaly Detection, Supply Chain Security

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- Enhanced security and reliability of autonomous delivery systems
- Reduced risk of theft, disruption, or safety incidents
- ✓ Increased customer confidence in the use of autonomous delivery

- Enhance Security of Autonomous Delivery Systems: Strengthen the security of delivery systems by implementing encryption, secure communication protocols, and authentication mechanisms. Regularly audit and update access controls to prevent unauthorized access to autonomous delivery vehicles.
- > Real-Time Monitoring and Anomaly Detection: Deploy advanced monitoring systems to track delivery vehicle status and detect any abnormal behavior in real-time. Utilize AI-driven anomaly detection tools to identify potential hijacking attempts or unauthorized control of vehicles.
- > Strengthen Payment System Security: Implement strong encryption and multi-factor authentication (MFA) for all transactions within Walmart's e-commerce and payment systems. Regularly conduct vulnerability assessments and penetration testing to identify and fix any security gaps in APIs or payment interfaces.
- Employee Cybersecurity Training and Awareness: Continuously train employees on best practices for recognizing phishing attempts and following security protocols, particularly for those handling sensitive customer data and payment systems. Regular workshops and simulated phishing exercises can help keep staff prepared against social engineering attacks.
- > Collaborate with Technology Providers: Work closely with autonomous vehicle manufacturers and other technology providers to improve the security features of delivery systems, ensuring secure handoff of goods and reducing the risk of manipulation during the delivery process.





Apple Phishing and Malware Attack: The goal is to steal user credentials, inject malware into the App Store, and compromise personal data stored in iCloud, resulting in widespread infections and financial loss.

Attack Description

- Hackers exploit vulnerabilities in Apple's App Store and iCloud services to gain unauthorized access to millions of user accounts. Using sophisticated phishing campaigns, attackers trick users into revealing their Apple ID credentials and two-factor authentication (2FA) codes.
- Once inside, the hackers steal personal data, including photos, documents, and financial information stored in iCloud. They also inject malware into legitimate apps on the App Store, leading to widespread infections across millions of devices.
- The stolen data is then sold on the Dark Web, with some pieces fetching upwards of \$650,000, while the malware continues to spread globally, impacting millions of Apple

Potential Impact

- Massive data breach, Malware infections, Damage to Apple's brand reputation, Regulatory fines and scrutiny from government agencies
- A significant data breach, compromising the personal, financial, and sensitive information of millions of Apple users.
- > Widespread malware infections on Apple devices, leading to potential data loss, theft, or further exploitation of infected users' personal information.
- Severe damage to Apple's brand reputation and consumer trust, particularly regarding the security of iCloud and App Store platforms.
- Legal consequences and regulatory fines, potentially including violations of privacy regulations like GDPR, with the risk of customer lawsuits and government scrutiny.





Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

App Security Audits & Malware Scanning, Advanced Phishing Detection Systems, Multi-Factor Authentication, User Education & Awareness Programs, Behavioral Analytics & Anomaly Detection

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- ✓ Enhanced security and privacy for users
- Reduced risk of cyberattacks and Malware Spread
- Increased user confidence in the safety and security
- Compliance and Reduced Legal Risks and Improved User Trust

- Multi-Layered Email Filtering and Phishing Protection: Implement advanced phishing detection tools that analyze both the content and context of incoming emails. Utilize AI-powered solutions to detect malicious attachments, links, and even potential deepfakes in email communications to prevent credential theft.
- > Strengthen User Authentication and Monitoring: Enforce more robust multi-factor authentication (MFA) methods for accessing iCloud and the App Store. Regularly monitor account access for suspicious behavior, such as unusual login locations or device pairings, to quickly identify and block unauthorized access.
- Enhanced App Developer Vetting and Collaboration: Tighten vetting procedures for app developers and work more closely with them to ensure the security of their apps. This includes checking their code for vulnerabilities and conducting regular security training for developers to prevent the insertion of malware into apps.
- Regular Security Audits and Penetration Testing: Continuously test iCloud and App Store platforms for vulnerabilities through penetration testing and regular security audits. This helps identify and patch potential weaknesses in the system before attackers can exploit them. Strengthened app review processes to detect malware and ensure apps are secure before release.
- ➤ **AI-powered threat detection** to monitor unusual access attempts and malware propagation in real-time.





JPMorgan Quantum Breach: The goal is to steal sensitive financial data, manipulate trading algorithms, disrupt global markets, and severely damage JPMorgan's reputation and consumer trust.

Attack Description

- Attackers exploit vulnerabilities in quantum computing or use quantum-resistant techniques to break encryption and steal sensitive financial data.
- This could compromise customer accounts, financial transactions, or even the bank's own systems.
- Hackers target JP Morgan Chase's internal banking systems, exploiting vulnerabilities in third-party financial services used by the company. Through a combination of spear-phishing and advanced malware, the attackers gain access to highly sensitive customer banking data, including account details, transaction history, and personal identifiers of millions of customers. They also infiltrate internal networks, manipulating financial models and trading algorithms, causing erroneous market predictions that impact stock prices. The stolen customer data, along with internal financial models, is then sold on the Dark Web for an estimated \$10 million. The attack not only compromises individual customer accounts but also disrupts global financial markets, leading to massive financial losses.

Potential Impact

Massive financial fraud, Severe market disruption, Damage to JP Morgan Chase's reputation, Regulatory scrutiny and penalties

- The attack on JP Morgan Chase results in **massive financial fraud**, with the theft of banking information leading to identity theft, unauthorized transactions, and significant financial losses for both customers and the bank itself.
- Market disruption follows as manipulated trading algorithms and incorrect market predictions cause erratic stock price movements, triggering panic selling and causing billions in losses globally. This breach severely damages the bank's reputation, eroding public trust in the security of its online banking and investment services. As a result, JP Morgan Chase faces regulatory scrutiny, with the potential for hefty fines and penalties from bodies like the SEC or FCA due to breaches in data protection and transaction security.



J.P.Morgan

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Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

AI-Powered Fraud Detection, Cloud Security and Data Loss Prevention, Blockchain Technology, AI-Powered Fraud Detection, Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) Systems, End-to-End Encryption, MFA

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- Enhanced security of financial data against quantum computing threats
- Smooth transition to quantum-resistant encryption
- ✓ Maintenance of trust in the security of the financial system

- Enhanced Vendor Security and Audits: JPMorgan should implement rigorous security audits and assessments for all third-party financial service providers, ensuring they meet the bank's cybersecurity standards. A comprehensive third-party risk management framework will help prevent potential breaches from external sources.
- > Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) and Encryption: Apply MFA across all internal and customer-facing systems that handle sensitive financial data, including trading platforms. End-to-end encryption should be enforced to protect data in transit and at rest, reducing the risk of unauthorized access or interception.
- Continuous Network Monitoring and Penetration Testing: Continuous monitoring of internal systems and customer-facing applications will help identify unusual activities and potential vulnerabilities in real-time. Regular penetration testing should also be conducted to proactively find and address security gaps before attackers can exploit them.
- ➤ AI-Driven Fraud Detection and Anomaly Detection: Deploy machine learning-based fraud detection systems that can analyze transaction patterns and flag suspicious activities automatically. This will allow the bank to detect and mitigate fraudulent transactions or unauthorized account access swiftly, limiting financial loss.
- Employee Cybersecurity Training: JPMorgan should implement comprehensive employee training programs focused on cybersecurity best practices. This should include awareness on the latest phishing tactics, secure data handling procedures, and recognizing potential threats to reduce the risk of human error and insider threats.



Microsoft AI-Powered Malware Attack: The goal is to infiltrate global infrastructure, bypass traditional security systems, steal sensitive data, and disrupt critical business operations across both Azure and Windows platforms, severely damaging Microsoft's reputation and client trust.

Attack Description

- Attackers leverage AI-powered malware that is capable of learning and adapting to bypass traditional security measures in real-time. This highly sophisticated malware uses machine learning to continuously evolve, evading detection by conventional antivirus tools and intrusion detection systems.
- The malware spreads across Microsoft's global infrastructure, infecting both cloud services (Azure) and enterprise systems (Windows), targeting critical business operations and sensitive data repositories.
- The AI-powered malware has the ability to disable security systems, manipulate user access controls, and infiltrate internal networks. It silently exfiltrates sensitive corporate, government, and customer data, including intellectual property, trade secrets, and financial records. With this adaptive technology, the malware evades traditional detection and quarantine, making eradication a challenging task.
- The stolen data from the AI-powered malware attack could be sold on the dark web for millions of dollars.

Potential Impact

Massive data breaches, Severe disruption of critical business operations, Erosion of trust, Widespread infection of Microsoft's core systems

A widespread infection of Microsoft's core systems, including Windows OS and Azure, results in the compromise of millions of users worldwide, affecting both enterprises and government entities. This leads to massive data breaches, exposing sensitive information such as personal data, intellectual property, and user credentials, causing severe consequences for customers and partners. Critical business operations are disrupted, as the malware targets essential tools like communication platforms, cloud storage, and databases, paralyzing daily functions. The attack significantly erodes trust in traditional security measures, prompting businesses and governments to reconsider their cybersecurity strategies in light of advanced, AI-driven threats.





Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

AI-Powered Security, Advanced Threat Detection, Threat Intelligence Sharing, Proactive Security Updates

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- Enhanced protection against AI-driven malware and advanced threats
- ✓ Improved security posture for Microsoft's products and services
- ✓ Increased resilience against evolving cyberattacks

- > Implement AI-driven security measures to detect anomalous behavior and proactive monitoring systems that adapt to evolving threats.
- **Zero-trust** architecture should be enforced across all internal and cloud systems, ensuring strict access controls and continuous validation of all endpoints.
- > Advanced behavioral analytics to continuously monitor for unusual activities and proactively block malware from spreading, even if it bypasses signature-based defenses.
- > Multi-layered, real-time threat intelligence, integrated with AI to detect new patterns of attack, would have been critical in stopping the AI-powered malware from evolving.
- > Partnership with cybersecurity firms for ongoing vulnerability assessments and penetration testing of new software and systems, ensuring that adaptive threats are mitigated as early as possible.

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Attack Scenario:

Uber Ride-Matching System Exploit: The goal is to manipulate algorithms to intercept rides, target specific individuals, and create safety risks by directing drivers to unsafe locations.

Attack Description

- Attackers exploit vulnerabilities in the algorithms that Uber uses to match riders and drivers.
- This could allow attackers to manipulate the system to intercept rides, target specific individuals, or even create dangerous situations by directing drivers to unsafe locations.

Potential Impact

Safety Risks, Reputation Damage, Legal and Regulatory Consequences, Financial Losses

The exploitation of vulnerabilities in Uber's ride-matching system presents significant safety risks, as attackers could put both passengers and drivers in dangerous situations. This would result in severe damage to Uber's reputation, eroding public trust and potentially causing a loss of customers and business partnerships. Legal ramifications, including lawsuits and penalties, could follow due to failures in safeguarding user safety and data. Additionally, Uber may face substantial financial losses from compensations and a decline in revenue as users abandon the platform due to safety concerns.



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Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

Algorithm Security Anomaly Detection Location Data Security Safety Reporting

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- Enhanced security and reliability of Uber's rider-driver matching system
- Reduced risk of safety incidents or fraudulent activity
- ✓ Increased trust in the safety and integrity of the Uber platform

- > Implement rigorous security testing and validation of the algorithms used for rider-driver matching, including regular audits and penetration testing.
- > Develop and deploy real-time monitoring and anomaly detection systems that can identify and respond to suspicious patterns in rider-driver matching.
- **Enhance security measures** to protect the integrity of location data and prevent manipulation of the matching system.
- ➤ Provide drivers and riders with clear and easy-to-use tools for reporting safety concerns or suspicious activity.



Netflix Deepfake Phishing Attack: The goal is to manipulate users and employees through AI-generated deepfake content, redirect payments, steal sensitive data, and infect devices, compromising Netflix's security and reputation.

Attack Description

- Attackers use AI to generate highly convincing deepfake content that impersonates actors or characters from popular Netflix shows.
- This content is used in phishing campaigns or social media scams to trick users into revealing their login credentials or financial information.
- Hackers deploy a sophisticated phishing campaign targeting Netflix's internal systems and customer accounts. They use deepfake technology to impersonate senior Netflix executives, sending highly convincing emails and messages to both employees and customers.
- The attackers gain access to internal financial data, user payment details, and personal viewing history. With this information, they manipulate subscription plans and redirect payments into fraudulent accounts, siphoning millions of dollars. Additionally, they distribute malware through compromised Netflix apps and streaming devices, infecting customers' devices globally and leading to widespread data breaches.

Potential Impact

Widespread malware infections, Data breaches, Massive financial fraud, Reputation damage

- The attack on Netflix results in significant **financial losses** due to the redirection of subscription payments and manipulation of billing information. It also causes **data breaches**, exposing millions of customer records, including sensitive payment information, leading to privacy violations.
- The incident severely impacts **Netflix's reputation**, as customers lose trust in the company's ability to protect their data. Additionally, the attack leads to **widespread malware infections** across various devices, including smart TVs and mobile apps, compromising user privacy and further exposing them to potential data theft.





Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

AI-Powered Deepfake Detection Social Media Monitoring Security Awareness Training Content Authentication

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- ✓ Reduced effectiveness of deepfake-based phishing and scams
- ✓ Enhanced protection of user accounts and financial information
- ✓ Increased user awareness of deepfake threats

- > Implement AI-Driven Threat Detection Systems and AI-Powered Deepfake Detection: Develop and deploy advanced AI-driven tools capable of detecting and analyzing manipulated video and audio content, even when highly realistic, to prevent phishing and social engineering attacks.
- ➤ Collaborate with Social Media Platforms: Work with platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to identify, flag, and remove deepfake content impersonating Netflix characters or promoting fraudulent schemes.
- ➤ User Awareness Training: Offer regular security training for users, educating them about the risks of deepfake phishing attacks and how to recognize suspicious activity, such as fraudulent emails or messages.
- > **Digital Content Verification:** Invest in technologies that verify the authenticity of digital content across platforms, helping users distinguish legitimate Netflix content from fake or manipulated media.
- > Enhanced Security for Account Access and Ongoing Employee Security Training: Increase employee awareness of deepfake technology, phishing techniques, and other social engineering attacks to better recognize and mitigate threats.
- > App and Device Verification: Strengthen encryption across Netflix apps and devices, and introduce real-time alerts for suspicious login attempts or transactions to prevent unauthorized access.
- > Regular Security Audits and Penetration Testing: Conduct continuous security audits and penetration testing on both customer-facing platforms and internal systems to identify and resolve vulnerabilities before they are exploited.

10. Zoom

Predicted Attack Date: October 8, 2026



Attack Scenario:

Zoom Encryption Breach: The goal is to exploit vulnerabilities in Zoom's encryption system, allowing attackers to eavesdrop on private meetings, steal sensitive information, and compromise user trust, severely damaging Zoom's reputation and security.

Attack Description

- Attackers exploit vulnerabilities in Zoom's end-to-end encryption or use advanced techniques to compromise encryption keys, gaining unauthorized access to private meetings. This allows them to eavesdrop on confidential discussions, steal sensitive intellectual property, and manipulate meeting content in real-time.
- In addition, the attackers can potentially intercept communications between users, access personal information, and disrupt business operations by leaking or manipulating critical data shared during meetings.
- The breach compromises Zoom's ability to ensure privacy and security for its users, undermining confidence in the platform's ability to safeguard sensitive communications.

Potential Impact

Breaches of Confidentiality, Compromise of Intellectual Property and Business Strategies, Loss of Trust in Platform Security, Legal and Regulatory Consequences

➤ The Zoom attack leads to serious consequences, including breaches of confidentiality, where sensitive meetings and communications are exposed, resulting in the leakage of private and proprietary information. Intellectual property, business strategies, and trade secrets are compromised, potentially giving competitors an unfair advantage or enabling malicious use. The breach severely damages Zoom's reputation, causing a loss of trust in its platform's security, which could prompt users to leave the platform. Additionally, Zoom may face legal and regulatory consequences, including lawsuits and fines for failing to safeguard user data in compliance with privacy laws like GDPR or CCPA.





Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

Enhanced Encryption Key Management Security Cryptographic Audits Transparency and User Education

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- ✓ Improved security and reliability of end-to-end encryption on Zoom
- Enhanced protection of user privacy and confidentiality
- ✓ Increased trust in Zoom for secure communications

- > Continuously strengthen end-to-end encryption protocols and key management practices, incorporating the latest cryptographic advancements.
- > Implement enhanced security measures to protect encryption keys from compromise, such as hardware security modules (HSMs) and zero-trust access controls.
- > Conduct regular independent security audits and cryptographic reviews to ensure the robustness of Zoom's encryption.
- > Provide users with clear and transparent information about Zoom's encryption practices and security features, empowering them to make informed decisions about their communication security.

TikTok

Attack Scenario:

TikTok Deepfake Manipulation Attack: The goal is to use AI-generated deepfake videos to spread disinformation, manipulate public opinion, and create social unrest, severely damaging TikTok's reputation and trust among users.

Attack Description

- Attackers exploit deep learning techniques to create highly realistic, personalized deepfake videos that are disseminated across TikTok. These videos, which closely mimic genuine content, are crafted to influence public opinion by targeting specific user groups and amplifying disinformation. The attackers carefully design these videos to be virtually indistinguishable from authentic content, ensuring that they have the maximum impact on the platform.
- The spread of deepfake videos on TikTok could lead to significant financial losses, as brands and influencers may suffer reputational damage, while targeted disinformation campaigns could cost businesses millions in lost trust and potential legal actions.

Potential Impact

- Widespread Disinformation, Manipulation of Public Opinion, Increased Polarization and Social Unrest, Severe Reputation Damage
- The use of deepfake videos on TikTok can lead to the rapid spread of disinformation, misleading viewers and distorting perceptions on key issues. Attackers could manipulate public opinion on political, social, or economic matters, potentially shifting widespread beliefs. The resulting fabricated content could increase societal polarization, fueling division and social unrest. This could also cause significant damage to TikTok's reputation, as users lose trust in the platform's ability to maintain a secure and authentic space for content.





Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

AI-Powered Deepfake Detection Media Literacy Education Content Authentication Account Verification

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- ✓ Improved ability to detect and mitigate the spread of deepfake disinformation
- ✓ Increased user awareness of deepfake threats
- ✓ Enhanced trust in the authenticity of content on the TikTok platform

- Develop and deploy advanced AI-powered deepfake detection tools that can analyze video content for subtle signs of manipulation, even in highly realistic deepfakes.
- Establish partnerships with media literacy organizations and educational institutions to promote critical thinking skills and awareness of deepfake threats among users.
- Implement stricter verification processes for accounts that are known to create or share content that reaches a large audience.
- Support research and development of technologies that can authenticate digital content and trace its origin.



SpaceX Satellite Deployment Attack: The goal is to exploit vulnerabilities in the software controlling SpaceX's Starlink satellites, causing malfunction or de-orbiting of satellites, disrupting global internet services, and generating space debris.

Attack Description

- Attackers exploit vulnerabilities in the software that controls the deployment and operation of SpaceX's Starlink satellites. By gaining unauthorized access to the satellite control systems, they manipulate the behavior of a significant number of satellites, causing them to either de-orbit or malfunction.
- This disruption leads to the creation of space debris, which poses a threat to other space assets.
- In addition to the physical damage caused by the debris, the attack severely impacts global internet connectivity, particularly in remote or underserved areas that rely on Starlink's satellite-based services. The breach undermines the reliability of the Starlink system and damages SpaceX's reputation as a provider of secure and dependable satellite internet services.

Potential Impact

- Creation of Significant Space Debris, Disruption of Starlink Internet Services, Financial Losses for SpaceX and Potential Damage to the Space Environment, Increased Concerns about the Militarization of Space.
- > The attack results in the creation of dangerous space debris, disrupting global Starlink internet services for millions and leading to substantial financial losses for SpaceX.
- > The incident also raises concerns about space security, environmental damage, and the growing militarization of space, highlighting vulnerabilities in satellite systems and the importance of secure space operations.





Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

Spacecraft Software Security Satellite Constellation Management Space Traffic Management Space Debris Mitigation

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- ✓ Enhanced security and reliability of satellite deployment operations
- Reduced risk of space debris creation and collisions
- ✓ Promotion of a safe and sustainable space environment

- Implement advanced software security measures for satellite deployment systems, including rigorous testing, formal verification, and redundancy.
- Develop and deploy automated systems for monitoring and managing satellite health, with the ability to quickly respond to anomalies or attacks.
- Collaborate with international organizations to establish and enforce space traffic management protocols, reducing the risk of collisions and debris creation.
- Invest in research and development of technologies for active space debris removal.

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Attack Scenario:

Harvard University Data Breach Attack: The goal is to exploit vulnerabilities in Harvard's internal networks and research systems, stealing sensitive research data, intellectual property, and financial information, while also manipulating university financial systems for embezzlement, leading to significant reputational damage and a loss of trust among students, faculty, and donors.

Attack Description

- A highly targeted phishing campaign uses deepfake technology to impersonate prominent professors or senior administrators at Harvard University.
- Attackers deploy realistic, AI-generated video and audio deepfakes of well-known faculty members and administrative leaders. These deepfakes are sent to university staff, students, and external partners via emails and video conferences, designed to deceive recipients into thinking they are communicating with trusted figures.
- The campaign is aimed at high-value research projects and financial systems within the university. Attackers send convincing fake requests for funds transfer or confidential research data by exploiting the trust of the recipients.
- Research teams are tricked into sharing unpublished or sensitive data from groundbreaking academic studies, while financial personnel are manipulated into redirecting grants or university funds to external accounts controlled by the attackers.
- The attackers' goal is to steal intellectual property related to cutting-edge research or embezzle university funds by exploiting these compromised channels. Additionally, the stolen data could be sold to competitors, academic rivals, or foreign entities.

Potential Impact

Theft of Valuable Research Data and Intellectual Property, Financial Fraud and Embezzlement, Damage to the University's Reputation, Erosion of Trust Among Students, Faculty, and Donors

The attack results in the theft of valuable research data and intellectual property, leading to potential espionage or unauthorized publication. Financial fraud misappropriates university funds, causing significant losses. The breach damages Harvard University's reputation, erodes trust among students, faculty, and donors, and undermines its standing in the academic community.





Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

AI-Driven Deepfake Detection Software, Multifactor Authentication (MFA), Cybersecurity Awareness Training, Data Encryption (In Transit and At Rest), Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) and Least Privilege Policies, Multi-Step Verification for Financial Transactions, Multi-Layered Email Filtering, Incident Response Plan, Third-Party Vendor Security Audits

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- Reduced susceptibility to advanced phishing attacks
- ✓ Enhanced protection of sensitive data and financial assets
- ✓ Maintenance of the university's reputation and trust

- **Deepfake Detection Technology**: Invest in AI-driven deepfake detection software to identify manipulated media and prevent deceptive communications.
- > Multifactor Authentication (MFA): Implement MFA for sensitive communications and transactions, particularly for high-value actions like fund transfers or sharing research data.
- ➤ Comprehensive Phishing Training: Regularly update cybersecurity training for all staff, students, and faculty to recognize phishing attacks, deepfakes, and other social engineering tactics.
- ➤ Data Encryption & Access Controls: Encrypt sensitive research data both in transit and at rest. Apply role-based access control (RBAC) and least privilege policies to safeguard critical resources.
- > Secure Financial Systems: Introduce multi-step verification for financial transactions and regular audits to ensure the integrity of financial processes.
- > Email Filtering & Incident Response: Deploy multi-layered email filtering and have an incident response plan in place to quickly address phishing and other cyberattacks.
- ➤ Third-Party Vendor Security Audits: Require cybersecurity audits for all third-party vendors, contractors, and collaborators with access to sensitive data, ensuring compliance with Harvard's strict security protocols.





Coca-Cola Production Line Attack: The goal is to exploit vulnerabilities in Coca-Cola's automated production systems, causing product contamination, significant recalls, and financial losses, while damaging the company's reputation and consumer trust.

Attack Description

- Automated Production Line Attack: Attackers manipulate Coca-Cola's manufacturing processes, causing product contamination or large-scale production errors, leading to recalls and financial losses.
- **Insider and Supply Chain Attack:** An insider, working at a third-party supplier, collaborates with external hackers to introduce malware into Coca-Cola's supply chain management software, disrupting inventory and shipment processes.
- **Proprietary Formula Theft:** Hackers steal Coca-Cola's proprietary beverage formulas, including those for flagship products, and attempt to sell them on the dark web or to competitors.
- Malware Impact on Production: The malware alters production schedules, resulting in bottlenecks, product shortages, and overproduction of less popular variants, harming Coca-Cola's market performance.
- **Supply Chain Disruption:** The malware causes misallocation of ingredients and finished goods across bottling plants and retailers, leading to delays and inefficiencies in production and distribution.

Potential Impact

Disruption of Production and Distribution, Financial Losses, Intellectual Property Theft, Damage to Brand Reputation, Regulatory Scrutiny

The malware attack on Coca-Cola causes significant production and distribution disruptions, leading to delays, stock shortages, and financial losses due to restoration efforts and ransom payments. Intellectual property theft exposes proprietary formulas to competitors, while damage to the brand's reputation and regulatory scrutiny results in a loss of consumer trust, market share, and potential legal penalties.





Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

Manufacturing Security Anomaly Detection ICS/OT Security Supply Chain Integrity

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- ✓ Reduced risk of cyberattacks disrupting production
- Improved product safety and quality control
- ✓ Protection of brand reputation and consumer trust

- > Supply Chain Security: Coca-Cola must implement strict cybersecurity protocols for all third-party suppliers involved in product manufacturing, distribution, and logistics. This includes ensuring that vendors and contractors adhere to cybersecurity standards and undergo regular security audits. Third-party risk assessments should be regularly conducted to evaluate the security practices of suppliers and distributors.
- Insider Threat Detection and Prevention: Coca-Cola should implement insider threat detection solutions that monitor for suspicious activities, especially from employees or contractors with access to sensitive systems and intellectual property. Enhanced background checks and continuous monitoring of employees with privileged access to critical systems, like production schedules, supply chain software, and intellectual property databases, can help identify potential threats early on.
- Advanced Malware Protection and Network Segmentation: Coca-Cola should use advanced endpoint protection and malware detection tools across its IT infrastructure, especially in critical systems like supply chain management software, production lines, and logistics platforms.
- > Regular Software and System Audits and Cybersecurity Training and Awareness Programs: Coca-Cola should implement regular system audits and automated patch management to proactively identify and address vulnerabilities in its production and distribution networks. Additionally, employee training programs focusing on recognizing phishing attacks, social engineering tactics, and supply chain threats will help enhance overall cybersecurity awareness.
- ➤ Data Encryption and Intellectual Property Protection, Incident Response and Crisis Management: Coca-Cola should create a comprehensive incident response plan for ransomware, insider threats, and supply chain disruptions, while applying encryption to sensitive data to protect proprietary information from theft.



15. Johns Hopkins Hospital



Attack Scenario:

Johns Hopkins Hospital IoMT Ransomware Attack: The goal is to manipulate medical devices, encrypt patient records, disrupt hospital operations, and jeopardize patient safety, severely impacting healthcare delivery and hospital trust.

Attack Description

- Attackers deploy AI-driven ransomware that targets both hospital data and connected medical devices, including infusion pumps and patient monitoring systems.
- This sophisticated ransomware is designed to not only lock hospital records and patient data but also to manipulate connected medical devices in the hospital's network.
- This disruption causes harm to patients who rely on these devices for life-sustaining treatment.
- The ransomware locks medical records and alters device functions, delivering incorrect medication dosages and disrupting critical patient monitoring, leading to harm and potentially life-threatening situations for patients.
- The attack creates a critical patient care crisis as medical staff struggle to manage the disruptions in treatment, exacerbating the already high-stress environment of the hospital.

Potential Impact

Endangerment of Patient Lives, Disruption of Hospital Operations, Reputational Damage, Financial Losses

The cyberattack on Johns Hopkins Hospital endangers patient lives by manipulating medical devices and disrupting patient monitoring, leading to severe health risks. It causes major operational disruptions, with encrypted records and malfunctioning devices resulting in treatment delays and misdiagnoses. This breach severely damages the hospital's reputation, eroding trust in its ability to safeguard patient data and provide quality care. Additionally, the attack imposes significant financial burdens, including ransom payments, recovery costs, legal fees, compensation for harm, and potential loss of patients to other healthcare providers.





15. Johns Hopkins Hospital

Predicted Attack Date: May 5, 2027



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Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

AI-Driven Security Zero Trust Architecture Medical Device Security Emergency Protocols

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- ✓ Enhanced protection against advanced ransomware attacks
- Improved patient safety and security
- ✓ Increased resilience of hospital operations

- > **IoMT Device Security:** Johns Hopkins should enforce strict security measures for IoMT devices, including network segmentation, regular updates, and patches to protect against vulnerabilities. Manufacturers should be held accountable for providing timely security updates to safeguard against potential cyber threats.
- > The use of **strong authentication** and **encryption** for medical devices can help prevent unauthorized access and ensure that device communications are secure.
- > AI-Driven Threat Detection and Monitoring: Implement AI-driven anomaly detection systems to monitor hospital networks and medical devices for unusual activity. Automated alerts can help identify potential threats early, enabling rapid response to prevent escalation.
- > Comprehensive Backup and Data Protection: implement regular backups of critical data, including patient records and medical device configurations, stored offline or in isolated environments. Encrypting sensitive data ensures protection from exploitation in case of a ransomware attack, enabling quick recovery without paying the ransom.
- > Multi-factor authentication (MFA) for staff accessing sensitive systems, particularly medical devices and patient records, to prevent unauthorized access. Additionally, the hospital should collaborate with other healthcare providers and industry groups for cybersecurity information sharing, ensuring proactive threat management, knowledge exchange, and early detection of emerging cyberattacks in the healthcare sector.





General Motors Supply Chain Attack: The goal is to compromise third-party supplier software, disrupt EV production lines with malicious code, steal proprietary design data, and demand ransom, severely impacting GM's manufacturing operations and intellectual property.

Attack Description

- A supply chain attack targets General Motors' manufacturing systems, particularly the software used to manage the production lines of electric vehicles (EVs).
- Attackers compromise the systems of a third-party supplier that provides software updates and maintenance for GM's manufacturing robots and automated assembly lines.
- Once inside the supplier's network, the attackers inject malicious code into the software updates that control GM's robotic systems used in vehicle assembly.
- When the compromised updates are deployed, the infected software leads to robotic malfunctions on the assembly lines, causing significant delays in production and increasing the risk of faulty parts being assembled in vehicles.
- The attackers demand a ransom to release control over the assembly line systems, threatening to continue disrupting production and potentially cause widespread defects in GM's vehicles unless paid.
- In addition to the production line attack, the attackers also steal proprietary design data, including information related to GM's electric vehicle battery technology, and attempt to sell it to competitors or on the dark web.

Potential Impact

Disruption of Production, Product Defects, Financial Losses, Intellectual Property Theft, Damage to Reputation

The attack disrupts GM's production, causing delays and missed sales targets, while robotic malfunctions potentially lead to defective vehicles and costly recalls. Financial losses mount due to halted production, customer compensation, and ransom payments. The theft of proprietary EV technology provides competitors with a strategic advantage, severely harming GM's market position and damaging its reputation for quality.





Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

EV Charging Security Authentication and Authorization Intrusion Detection Industry Collaboration, Advanced Threat Detection and Monitoring Systems, Encryption and Secure Communication Protocols, MFA, Supplier and Vendor Cybersecurity Audits

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- ✓ Enhanced security of EV charging infrastructure
- ✓ Reduced Risk of Disruptions to EV Charging:
- Increased confidence in the reliability of EV technology

- > Strengthen Supplier Security and Update Procedures: GM should enforce stringent cybersecurity standards for all third-party suppliers, requiring regular audits, certifications, and adherence to best practices. Additionally, automated software updates should be verified for integrity in isolated environments before deployment to ensure security.
- ➤ Network Segmentation and Real-Time Threat Detection: Critical production systems should be isolated from corporate networks to limit attack impact, with access restricted to authorized personnel. GM should deploy real-time monitoring and advanced endpoint detection tools to detect and block any unusual activity or malicious software in its systems.
- ➤ Data Protection, Backup, and Disaster Recovery: Sensitive vehicle design and proprietary data should be encrypted both in transit and at rest. GM should also implement secure backup systems and a disaster recovery plan to ensure business continuity and restore operations in the event of an attack.
- **Employee, Supplier Training, and Industry Collaboration:** GM should provide ongoing cybersecurity training for employees and suppliers to recognize threats like phishing. Additionally, GM should collaborate with industry partners to share threat intelligence and stay ahead of emerging cybersecurity risks.



Los Angeles Municipal Government Ransomware Attack: Attackers exploit vulnerabilities in the city's outdated IT systems through phishing emails, deploying ransomware that encrypts critical data, disrupts key services, and exfiltrates sensitive citizen information for sale or identity theft.

Attack Description

- Attackers target the City of Los Angeles' municipal government by exploiting vulnerabilities in outdated IT infrastructure.
- They deploy ransomware through phishing emails, encrypting critical data across key departments like finance, public safety, and public works.
- The attackers gain access through phishing emails sent to employees working in key departments such as finance, public safety, and public works. These emails contain malicious attachments that, when opened, deploy ransomware into the city's internal network.
- In addition to locking the city's operational data, the attackers also exfiltrate sensitive data, including citizen records (e.g., social security numbers, addresses, tax data, health information), which is then sold on the dark web or used for identity theft and fraud. The attackers threaten to release the stolen data publicly or sell it unless the ransom is paid, escalating the pressure on the city to comply with their demands. Due to the encrypted systems, key city services such as emergency response, traffic management, and public health are disrupted, causing widespread panic and inconvenience for residents.

Potential Impact

Disruption of City Services, Loss of Sensitive Data, Reputational Damage, Financial Losses, Legal and Regulatory Consequences

A cyberattack on the City of Los Angeles cripples critical municipal services, including emergency response systems, law enforcement databases, and public services such as tax collection and traffic management. The attack encrypts vital systems, disrupting essential operations and causing widespread panic. Sensitive citizen data, including tax records, health information, and social security numbers, is exfiltrated, risking identity theft and financial fraud. This breach severely damages the city's reputation, eroding public trust and confidence in its ability to secure personal data. Financial losses mount from ransom payments, system restoration, legal liabilities, and regulatory fines, while the city also faces potential lawsuits from affected residents. Legal and regulatory consequences loom if the city is found negligent in protecting sensitive data, leading to long-term financial and reputational damage.





Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

Emergency Response Systems Security Ransomware Protection Disaster Recovery Interagency Coordination

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

✓ Improved resilience of emergency services to cyberattacks

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- Minimized disruption during security incidents
- ✓ Enhanced public safety and security

- Modernizing IT Infrastructure: The city should prioritize upgrading its outdated IT infrastructure, focusing on improving network security, system redundancy, and the implementation of modern cybersecurity practices. This includes migrating legacy systems to more secure, cloud-based platforms where possible, and replacing or patching vulnerable systems.
- Employee Training and Phishing Prevention: Conduct regular cybersecurity awareness training for all city employees, particularly those in departments handling sensitive data (e.g., finance, public safety). Employees should be educated on how to recognize phishing emails and avoid clicking on suspicious links or attachments. Implement email filtering solutions to block known phishing emails and provide employees with clear guidelines for reporting suspicious emails or messages.
- ➤ Implement Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) and Advanced Threat Detection and Response: The city should use MFA for all users accessing critical government systems, particularly those with access to sensitive resident data or municipal records deploy AI-driven endpoint protection and network monitoring tools to detect unusual behavior or malware activity in real-time. Automated alerts can help identify potential ransomware infections before they can spread across the network, allowing for faster containment and remediation. Integrating a Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) system would enable the city to monitor logs, detect anomalies, and analyze potential security incidents across all departments in a centralized manner.
- Data Encryption and Backup Strategies: Encrypt sensitive data both in transit and at rest to prevent attackers from easily accessing it if they infiltrate city systems. This would ensure that stolen data is unreadable and unusable without the proper decryption keys. The city should implement regular, automated backups of critical data, including resident records, law enforcement files, and municipal systems. These backups should be stored securely and tested regularly to ensure they can be quickly restored in the event of a ransomware attack.



United Airlines Ransomware Attack: Hackers exploit a zero-day vulnerability to encrypt United Airlines' booking and reservation systems, exfiltrate sensitive passenger data, and disrupt customer service operations, demanding a ransom in cryptocurrency to restore access.

Attack Description

- A ransomware attack targets United Airlines' global booking and reservation systems, as well as its customer service infrastructure.
- Attackers exploit a zero-day vulnerability in United Airlines' customer database management system, which is used to store sensitive passenger data, including personal details, payment information, and flight schedules.
- The ransomware, once deployed, encrypts key systems responsible for flight bookings, reservations, and customer data access. The attackers demand a ransom in cryptocurrency to decrypt the files and restore access to critical systems.
- In addition to the ransomware, attackers exfiltrate large volumes of customer data, including sensitive personally identifiable information (PII) such as passport numbers, addresses, phone numbers, and travel itineraries. This data is then sold on the dark web, leading to potential identity theft and fraud.
- The attack also disrupts United Airlines' customer service operations, including the mobile app and call centers, resulting in long delays, flight cancellations, and lost reservations for millions of customers.
- The attackers threaten to release the stolen data publicly if the ransom is not paid, further escalating the pressure on United Airlines to comply with their demands.

Potential Impact

Disruption of Operations, Customer Data Exposure, Reputational Damage, Financial Losses and Regulatory Scrutiny

The ransomware attack on United Airlines disrupts operations by encrypting booking and reservation systems, causing widespread flight cancellations and delays. Passengers lose access to their reservations, leading to chaos at airports. Sensitive customer data is exfiltrated, exposing millions to potential identity theft, financial fraud, and privacy violations. The breach severely damages the airline's reputation, eroding customer trust in its ability to secure personal information and systems. United Airlines faces substantial financial losses from flight disruptions, ransom payments, customer compensation, legal fees, and the cost of system restoration. Additionally, the company risks regulatory scrutiny and potential fines for violating data protection laws like GDPR or CCPA.





18. United Airlines

Predicted Attack Date: August 10, 2027



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Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

OT/ICS Security Network Segmentation Change Management Security Awareness Training

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- ✓ Reduced risk of cyber-physical attacks on ground operations
- Improved reliability and safety of flight operations
- ✓ Enhanced protection of critical infrastructure

- ➤ Implement Strong Network Segmentation and Access Controls: United Airlines should implement strong network segmentation to separate critical systems, such as booking and reservation platforms, from less sensitive systems. This will limit the spread of an attack in case of a breach. Additionally, access controls should be enforced using role-based access and multi-factor authentication (MFA) for all employees, ensuring only authorized personnel can access critical infrastructure and customer data systems.
- > Regular Patching and Vulnerability Management: The airline should establish a robust process for promptly applying security patches to all systems, especially third-party software and platforms used in booking, reservations, and customer service operations. This would reduce the risk of zero-day vulnerabilities being exploited.
- > Advanced Ransomware Detection and Prevention: United Airlines should deploy advanced endpoint detection and response (EDR) tools to detect and block ransomware attacks in real-time and use network traffic analysis to monitor for unusual data flows indicating potential ransomware exfiltration.
- ➤ Data Encryption and Backup Systems: All sensitive customer data, including PII and payment information, should be encrypted both in transit and at rest, while ensuring comprehensive backup systems are in place to recover data in case of a ransomware attack.





Target POS System Attack: A cyberattack targets Target's point-of-sale systems through a third-party vendor vulnerability, deploying malware to intercept and steal customer payment card information during high-traffic shopping periods, compromising both customer and internal data.

Attack Description

- A sophisticated cyberattack targets Target's point-of-sale (POS) systems, exploiting vulnerabilities in its payment processing infrastructure.
- Attackers gain access through a **supply chain attack**, exploiting weaknesses in the systems of a third-party vendor that provides maintenance and support for Target's POS terminals.
- Once inside, attackers deploy **malware** onto Target's POS systems, allowing them to intercept and steal payment card information from customers making purchases in Target stores across the country.
- The stolen data includes **credit card numbers**, **expiration dates**, **CVVs**, **and customer names**, which are then sold on the dark web for fraudulent use.
- The attackers focus on targeting high-traffic shopping periods, such as Black Friday and Cyber Monday, to maximize the amount of stolen payment data before detection.
- The attack also compromises Target's internal communication systems, potentially stealing sensitive employee and vendor data, which further jeopardizes the company's operations.

Potential Impact

Widespread Financial Losses, Reputational Damage, Data Breach Legal Liabilities, Brand Trust Erosion, Operational

Alarge-scale theft of customer payment card data results in widespread financial losses for Target, including legal liabilities, compensation for affected customers, and regulatory penalties. The breach damages Target's reputation, leading to a decline in customer trust, loyalty, and sales. Legal consequences include potential lawsuits and fines from data protection authorities. Operational disruptions, such as delays in processing payments and slow checkout during peak shopping periods, further exacerbate the impact, contributing to significant brand trust erosion and negative media attention.







Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR), Anti-Phishing Training, Access Controls and Segmentation, Data Backup and Recovery

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- ✓ Reduced risk of ransomware attacks disrupting retail operations
- ✓ Protection of customer payment card data
- ✓ Minimized financial losses and reputational damage

- Third-Party Vendor Security and Regular Audits: Target should enforce strict cybersecurity protocols for all third-party vendors, ensuring they adhere to industry standards like PCI-DSS compliance, undergo regular security audits, and maintain updated and patched systems to prevent supply chain vulnerabilities.
- ➤ Advanced Malware Detection and Encryption: Implement advanced endpoint detection and response (EDR) tools on POS systems to detect and block malware, along with encryption and tokenization of payment card data to secure customer information during transactions and prevent data theft.
- > Zero Trust Architecture and MFA Implementation: Adopt a Zero Trust model for internal networks, ensuring continuous verification of access to sensitive systems, and implement multi-factor authentication (MFA) to safeguard POS terminals and critical infrastructure from unauthorized access.
- Employee Training and Ongoing Security Assessments: Conduct regular security audits, penetration testing, and vulnerability assessments on POS infrastructure. Additionally, train employees on recognizing phishing attacks, social engineering, and handling sensitive customer data securely.

New York Times Supply Chain Attack: Attackers exploit vulnerabilities in a third-party vendor's cloud-based CMS, injecting malicious code that manipulates editorial content, steals sensitive data, and publishes false information to influence public opinion or political events.

Attack Description

- A targeted **supply chain attack** compromises the content management system (CMS) used by The New York Times.
- Attackers exploit a vulnerability in a third-party vendor providing cloud-based software for publishing, analytics, and content management.
- The attackers gain access to The New York Times' CMS through a compromised update pushed by the vendor, allowing them to inject malicious code into the system.
- The malicious code allows attackers to access and manipulate editorial content, including news articles, headlines, and multimedia. They can also exfiltrate sensitive internal communications, classified documents, and reporters' drafts.
- The attackers use this access to publish false or misleading articles on The New York Times' website, aiming to manipulate public opinion, discredit the newspaper, or influence political events.
- The attackers also threaten to release stolen internal communications or sensitive journalistic data unless a ransom is paid, placing immense pressure on The New York Times' leadership.

Potential Impact

Reputational Damage, Loss of Subscribers and Advertisers, Exploitation of Sensitive Data, Financial Losses, Legal and Regulatory Consequences

The New York Times faces severe reputational damage from publishing fake news and manipulated stories, leading to a loss of public trust, subscribers, and advertisers. Sensitive internal data, including journalistic sources, could be exposed, risking reporter safety and raising legal concerns. Financial losses would mount due to dropped subscriptions, reduced advertising revenue, and potential legal fees, while the newspaper could also face lawsuits and regulatory penalties for mishandling the breach and violating trust.



Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

Disinformation Detection Media Verification Social Media Monitoring Transparency and Accountability

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- ✓ Enhanced ability to combat disinformation and protect the integrity of news reporting
- Preservation of public trust in The New York Times and quality journalism
- ✓ Promotion of a more informed and resilient society

02. Prevention Strategies

Strengthen Third-Party Vendor Security: The New York Times should rigorously vet and audit all third-party vendors, especially those providing critical infrastructure like CMS and cloud services. This includes enforcing strict security standards, requiring regular penetration tests, and establishing clear protocols for handling vendor updates to prevent malicious code injections.

Implement Zero Trust Architecture: Adopting a Zero Trust security model across internal networks is crucial. This approach ensures that access to sensitive systems like the CMS requires multi-factor authentication (MFA), and all systems are segmented to limit exposure in the event of a breach.

Advanced Threat Detection and Monitoring: Invest in AI-driven monitoring tools to detect abnormal activities within content management systems. Real-time alerts should be set up to notify security teams of unauthorized changes, data exfiltration attempts, or unusual access patterns, ensuring timely detection of potential threats.

End-to-End Encryption and Incident Response: All sensitive data should be encrypted both in transit and at rest to prevent unauthorized access. Additionally, a well-defined incident response plan must be in place to ensure rapid containment of breaches, system restoration, and transparent communication to mitigate reputational damage. Regular security audits and penetration testing should also be conducted to proactively address vulnerabilities.





Pfizer Ransomware and Data Exfiltration Attack: Attackers exploit vulnerabilities in third-party suppliers to gain access to Pfizer's internal systems, deploying ransomware to encrypt critical research data and production schedules, while exfiltrating sensitive vaccine formulations and threatening to release the data unless a ransom is paid.

Attack Description

- A highly targeted cyber attack uses a combination of ransomware and data exfiltration to compromise Pfizer's global supply chain and internal systems.
- Attackers exploit vulnerabilities in Pfizer's third-party suppliers' systems, gaining access to sensitive internal networks through phishing emails containing malicious payloads.
- Once inside the network, the attackers deploy ransomware to encrypt critical files, including research data, vaccine production schedules, and customer records.
- Simultaneously, they exfiltrate sensitive data, including proprietary vaccine formulations, research results, and internal communications.
- The ransomware locks key Pfizer systems, halting production and distribution of life-saving medications, including COVID-19 vaccines.
- The attackers threaten to release the stolen data publicly unless a ransom is paid, placing Pfizer under immense pressure.
- The attackers' ultimate goal is to cause widespread disruption, financial losses, and reputational damage to Pfizer, while also attempting to profit from the stolen proprietary research data.

Potential Impact

Disruption in Vaccine Production and Distribution, Significant Financial Losses, Damage to Pfizer's Reputation, Regulatory Scrutiny and Legal Liabilities

A ransomware attack on Pfizer could cause severe disruption in vaccine production and distribution, critically impacting global healthcare, particularly in regions relying on Pfizer's COVID-19 and other treatments. The company would face significant financial losses from ransom payments, recovery efforts, legal fees, and halted production. Stolen proprietary research and intellectual property could be sold or leaked, damaging Pfizer's competitive advantage. The attack would also severely damage Pfizer's reputation, eroding customer trust, and potentially triggering regulatory scrutiny, lawsuits, and investigations from health authorities.



21. Pfizer

Predicted Attack Date: October 15, 2027



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Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

Data Protection, Advanced Threat Protection, Threat Hunting, Cybersecurity Collaboration

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- ✓ Enhanced protection of sensitive research and development data
- Reduced risk of nation-state sponsored cyberattacks
- ✓ Maintenance of Pfizer's competitive edge and public trust

- > Strengthening Third-Party Vendor Security: Pfizer should enforce strict cybersecurity protocols with third-party suppliers, including regular audits, vulnerability assessments, and ensuring compliance with security certifications to monitor and mitigate potential security threats from partners.
- ➤ Advanced Email and Phishing Protection: Implement advanced email filtering systems powered by AI to detect phishing emails, malicious attachments, and anomalies in communication patterns, along with multi-layered security to safeguard against email-based threats.
- > Ransomware Prevention and Backup Systems: Deploy robust anti-ransomware software to detect, block, and roll back ransomware attempts, while ensuring regular, secure, and automated backups of critical data to enable swift restoration during attacks.
- > Zero Trust Security Model and Incident Response: Adopt a Zero Trust security model with continuous monitoring and multi-factor authentication for sensitive access, along with a comprehensive incident response plan to swiftly isolate and recover from ransomware attacks, ensuring transparent communication with stakeholders.



Amazon AWS DDoS Attack: Attackers exploit vulnerabilities in unsecured IoT devices to create a massive botnet, launching a coordinated DDoS attack on Amazon's cloud infrastructure, disrupting critical services, causing global outages, and damaging the company's reputation for reliable cloud hosting.

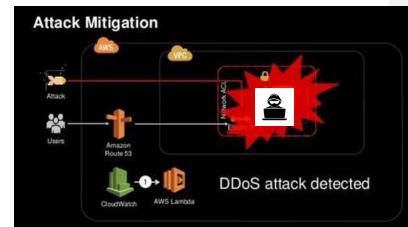
Attack Description

- A large-scale Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attack, amplified by compromised IoT devices, targets Amazon's cloud infrastructure, Amazon Web Services (AWS).
- Attackers exploit vulnerabilities in unsecured IoT devices, such as smart cameras, routers, and printers, to create a massive botnet of compromised devices.
- The botnet is then used to launch a highly coordinated DDoS attack on Amazon's cloud infrastructure, overwhelming its servers with an enormous volume of traffic.
- The attack disrupts critical online services hosted on AWS, including e-commerce websites, streaming services, and enterprise applications, causing widespread outages and slowdowns for millions of customers across the globe.
- The attackers aim to cause financial losses by interrupting e-commerce operations, halt AWS-hosted services, and damage Amazon's reputation for reliable cloud services.

Potential Impact

Widespread Disruption of Online Services and E-Commerce, Significant Financial Losses, Damage to Amazon's Reputation, Increased Scrutiny of IoT Device Security

- ➤ Widespread Disruption of Online Services and E-Commerce: Thousands of websites and online services hosted on AWS go offline, affecting millions of users and businesses.
- Significant Financial Losses: Amazon and its AWS customers experience financial losses due to service disruptions, including lost sales, penalties, and customer compensation claims.
- ➤ **Damage to Amazon's Reputation:** As the world's largest cloud services provider, any prolonged service interruption damages Amazon's reputation for reliability and security.
- Increased Scrutiny of IoT Device Security: The attack raises concerns about the security of IoT devices, with a greater emphasis on regulating and securing these devices to prevent them from being hijacked for malicious purposes.





Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

DDoS Mitigation IoT Security Network Segmentation Incident Response Planning

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- / Improved resilience against large-scale DDoS attacks
- Reduced impact of disruptions on AWS customers
- ✓ Increased security of the overall internet ecosystem

- > Securing IoT Devices: Amazon should enforce strict security standards for IoT devices, including secure boot mechanisms, encryption, regular firmware updates, and collaboration with manufacturers to implement MFA and remote device management to prevent botnet exploitation.
- **Enhanced DDoS Mitigation Technologies:** Implement advanced DDoS protection services, such as AWS Shield, alongside machine learning models to predict and mitigate emerging DDoS attack patterns and expand scrubbing centers to filter malicious traffic in real-time.
- > Stronger Authentication and Network Segmentation: Enforce multi-factor authentication (MFA) for users and devices accessing AWS infrastructure and implement network segmentation to isolate critical systems and limit DDoS attack impacts.
- > Collaborating with IoT Security Industry: Partner with IoT manufacturers, service providers, and regulators to create standardized security frameworks for IoT devices, while educating consumers on securing their devices to reduce the pool of vulnerable devices available for attacks.



Bank of America Deepfake Phishing Attack: Hackers use deepfake technology to impersonate senior executives, manipulate high-level employees into granting access to sensitive systems, and execute fraudulent transactions, resulting in large-scale theft of financial data.

Attack Description

- Hackers launch a highly targeted phishing campaign that leverages deepfake technology to impersonate senior executives at Bank of America.
- Attackers use deepfake audio and video to create convincing simulations of key bank executives (e.g., the CEO or senior finance officers) during video conferences and voice calls.
- Using these deepfakes, attackers contact high-level employees with access to critical internal systems such as customer accounts, financial data, and transaction records.
- Through social engineering tactics, the attackers manipulate these employees into granting them access to bank systems, providing login credentials, and approving fraudulent wire transfers or other unauthorized transactions.
- The campaign is coordinated over a period of weeks, with attackers using deepfake technology to make their impersonations more convincing and to avoid detection.
- The goal is to gain unauthorized access to customer accounts and sensitive financial data for large-scale theft and to execute fraudulent transactions, potentially siphoning millions of dollars from customer accounts.

Potential Impact

- Significant Financial Losses: Large-scale theft from customer accounts due to fraudulent transactions.
- Compromise of Sensitive Customer Data: Personal and financial data of millions of customers may be accessed, leading to identity theft and misuse of financial information.
- **Damage to Bank of America's Reputation:** The attack would severely damage customer trust, leading to a potential loss of business and public confidence in Bank of America's ability to secure accounts and personal information.
- Regulatory Fines and Legal Liabilities: As a financial institution, Bank of America could face heavy fines and regulatory scrutiny for failing to protect customer data adequately. Lawsuits from affected customers could further harm the bank's financial standing.





Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

Anti-Phishing Technology Deepfake Detection Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Security Awareness Training

02. Prevention Strategies

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- ✓ Reduced susceptibility to deepfake phishing attacks
- ✓ Enhanced security of employee accounts and access controls
- Protection of customer data and financial assets
- ✓ Maintenance of customer trust and regulatory compliance
- Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for High-Level Access: Implement mandatory multi-factor authentication (MFA) for all employees with access to sensitive systems, especially senior executives and employees handling financial transactions. This would ensure that even if login credentials are compromised, unauthorized access can still be prevented through additional verification methods such as biometric scans, authentication apps, or hardware tokens.
- ➤ Deepfake Detection Systems: Develop or integrate AI-powered deepfake detection systems into video conference platforms used by Bank of America. These systems would analyze audio and video streams in real-time to flag potential deepfakes or manipulations. Such systems can help employees identify suspicious communications or calls from impersonated executives before taking any action.
- Employee Training on Social Engineering and Phishing: Regularly train employees, particularly those with high-level access, on recognizing and responding to phishing attacks and social engineering tactics, including deepfakes. Employees should be made aware of the risk of deepfake technologies being used in fraud schemes and taught to verify unusual requests through independent channels (e.g., a call to the executive's known phone number, not the one provided in a suspicious communication).
- > Real-Time Fraud Detection and Transaction Monitoring: Implement enhanced real-time monitoring and machine learning algorithms that can detect fraudulent financial transactions, unusual account access, or behavioral anomalies indicative of unauthorized activity. Alerts should be sent to a security operations center for immediate investigation.
- ➤ Incident Response Plan and Reporting Procedures: Develop a robust incident response plan specifically for attacks involving deepfakes or other advanced social engineering techniques. Employees should know the immediate steps to take if they suspect fraud, including reporting incidents to internal security teams and freezing transactions.
- Regular Security Audits and Third-Party Testing: Conduct regular security audits and penetration testing, especially focusing on the vulnerabilities that could be exploited by attackers impersonating executives. Partner with cybersecurity firms that specialize in deepfake detection to ensure the systems are prepared for these emerging threats.



Tesla Autopilot Attack: Hackers exploit a vulnerability in Tesla's third-party software update system to inject malicious code into firmware, causing unpredictable vehicle behavior and accidents, damaging Tesla's reputation and manipulating stock prices.

Predicted Attack Date: December 8, 2027

Attack Description

- Hackers exploit a vulnerability in Tesla's third-party software update mechanism.
- Attackers gain unauthorized access to Tesla's over-the-air (OTA) update system.
- The attackers inject malicious code into the firmware update, specifically targeting the Autopilot system.
- The corrupted firmware is distributed across a wide range of vehicles during a regular update.
- Affected vehicles experience unpredictable behavior in certain driving conditions, such as sudden braking, steering malfunctions, and failure to detect obstacles.
- As a result, multiple accidents occur, leading to public backlash and media coverage, causing widespread fear regarding the reliability of Tesla's Autopilot system.
- The attack's goal is to damage Tesla's reputation in the autonomous vehicle market and to manipulate the stock price by causing short-term crashes.

Potential Impact

- Serious injuries and fatalities due to malfunctioning vehicles.
- A massive recall of Tesla vehicles to reflash and repair the affected firmware.
- Significant financial losses due to recall costs, potential lawsuits, and damage to consumer trust.
- Diminished reputation and public confidence in autonomous driving technologies.
- A temporary halt or slowdown in the widespread adoption of self-driving cars.
- Major stock price fluctuation and potential long-term loss in market share.



24. Tesla

Predicted Attack Date: December 8, 2027



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Prevention

01. Technologies/Practices Involved

Supply Chain Risk Management (SCRM), Firmware Security, Zero Trust Architecture, Vulnerability Disclosure Program

03. Expected Outcome of Prevention

- ✓ Reduced risk of supply chain attacks
- Increased trust in the security of Tesla's vehicles
- ✓ Enhanced safety and reliability of Autopilot
- ✓ Protection of Tesla's brand and financial stability

- > Strengthening OTA Update Security: Tesla should implement stronger encryption protocols for its over-the-air updates, ensuring secure communication between Tesla servers and vehicle systems. Multi-factor authentication (MFA) should be used to authenticate both the source of updates and the recipient vehicles.
- > Tesla can implement a digital signature verification process to ensure the integrity of every software package delivered to vehicles. Any changes in the firmware would be flagged immediately if signatures do not match.
- > Regular Penetration Testing: Conduct regular third-party security audits and penetration testing specifically targeting the OTA update process to identify potential vulnerabilities in the system.
- **Zero-Day Vulnerability Patching:** Implement a proactive, rapid-response mechanism to patch vulnerabilities as soon as they are identified, especially for critical systems such as Autopilot. This could include prioritizing security patches and addressing vulnerabilities before they can be exploited by attackers.
- > Continuous Monitoring and Anomaly Detection: Deploy advanced monitoring and anomaly detection systems within Tesla's network and fleet to track abnormal behaviors of vehicles, especially following a software update. This would help identify and halt any malicious activities before they can escalate.
- Public Relations and Consumer Assurance: Implement transparent communication protocols with consumers in the event of security breaches, explaining the situation and actions taken. Offer affected customers compensation, such as free vehicle service or software upgrades, to maintain public trust.







THANK YOU

Stevens Institute of Technology 1 Castle Point Terrace, Hoboken, NJ 07030

Questions?



