Cybercrime: Identity Theft Paragraph

Online identity theft is an illegal cybercrime activity that could harm internet users by stealing their personal information to assume their identity; however, this issue could be prevented by being cautious on providing personal information on the web. Hackers who are professionalized in this type of cybercrime are called phishers, and it was obtained from the word fishing, but it starts with letter P then H to show that this activity is based on imitation, to trick the victims and steal their personal information (Jakobsson and Myers 2007). According to BBC (2015), from January to March of 2015, the amount of users who are affected by identity theft has increased by 31% victims, and the normal age among those victims was 48 years old. Hence, more victims are going to be affected negatively, and most likely financially through their stolen identities to buy items online or to open bank accounts and credit cards by phishers. Therefore, the victims might receive unfamiliar bills of products that have not been formally purchased. There are two effective solutions that could encounter this problem. Firstly, is to be aware of the provided personal information on social media (BBC 2015). The user does not need to type in detailed information that could lead phishers to mimic their identity, and then commit illegal activities. Secondly, is to switch the viewable settings from public to private whenever it is possible (Neate 2013). Especially, if the website is well popular such as Facebook and Instagram, this method prevents the phishers to access users’ identical information. In addition, there are specialized organizations that deal with fraud and identity theft in the UK, and reporting to the right authorities such as UK’s national reporting centre could be helpful (Neate 2013). However, these solutions might not be adequate to avoid the problem completely.

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