

Memo – Network Security

To: Dr. Alan Carswell (IS-365)

From: xxxxx

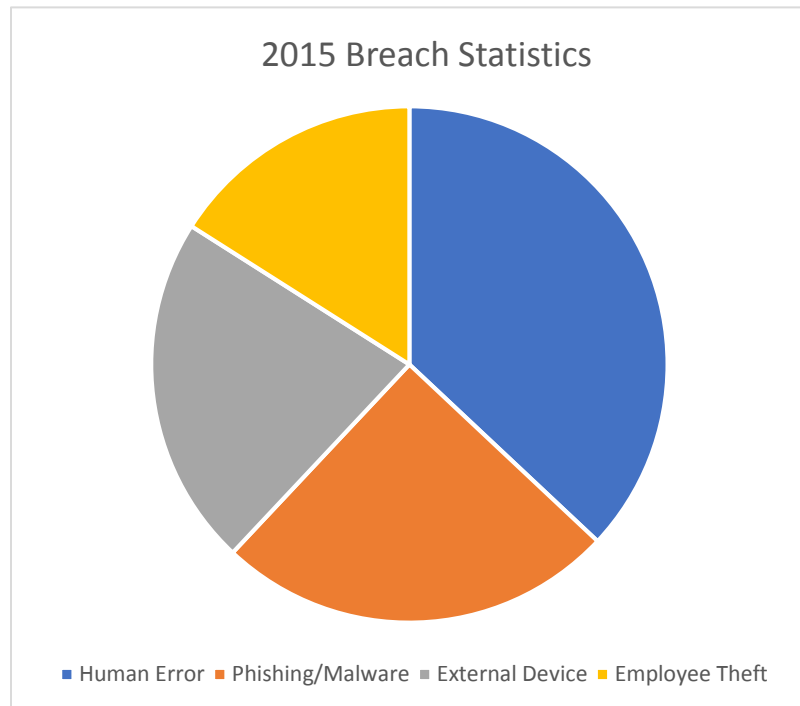
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Network Security is extremely important within a company – it's what keeps their data safe and locked away in the right place, and accessible to only those who are authorized to handle it. Additionally, it keeps the company's technological services and functions safe within their own hands, not manipulated by malicious outsiders attempting to wreak havoc on an organization. This memo will outline several important statistics on Network Security (specifically the causes and damage that network breaches can create) and stress the importance of training and diligence from any company's employees.

Network Breaches – Statistics

There are a great number of manners in which companies can find their network breached, ranging from elaborate Phishing scams designed to gain passwords and access to core functions and data servers of companies, to hackers will ill-intent out to leak company information, or simply partake in mischievous behavior. While many employees may believe hackers to be the largest threat to companies - as they are mysterious and are perceived to have the power to break into any system – statistics from several sources show an alarming truth: employee error

accounts for a massive percentage of data breach causes. Will Daugherty, a writer for Cyber



Security Trend, writes that his study found Human error accounted for 37% of network breach incidents in 2015.

(Daugherty, 2016) However, it is worth noting that while he lists these four as separate entities, Phishing and Malware also is traced back to employee negligence. Phishing scams

require employees to give out information they are not meant to, and Malware is commonly – though not always – downloaded by employees who are ignorant to proper protocols or scams. As such, simple Employee errors should instead account for a massive 62% of all breaches, using Mr. Daugherty's statistics.

Company Response

With employees making simple mistakes from ignorant downloading behaviors to other very minor errors, it seems appropriate that a company should respond to this information by

proposing an employee training program to familiarize employees with the risks of Phishing

Scams and deceiving

links. Rutrell Yasin, a

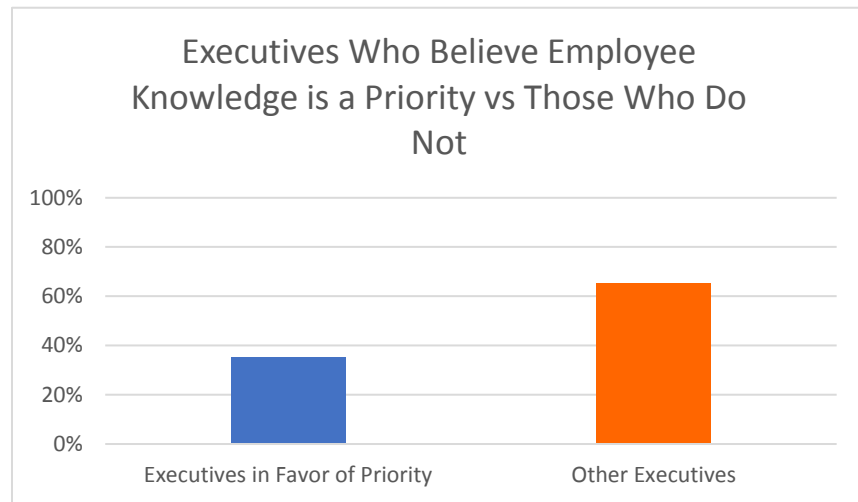
writer for

DarkReading.com,

shows that only a

surprisingly low

percentage of



Executives believe that Employee knowledge is a priority – and that 60% of executives interviewed would say their employees have little to no knowledge of security risks. (Yasin, 2016) Negligence to implement Employee Training programs from both Executives and Employees themselves cost businesses greatly, especially considering the earlier statistics of employee error being the top cause of security breaches. Rutrell Yasin continues in his article to state that only 45% of organizations have mandatory training, but 29% of those courses from organizations are not mandatory. (Yasin, 2016) Additionally, many of these courses are not comprehensive, neglecting concepts such as cloud services, mobile device security, and even phishing attacks. (Yasin, 2016)

Conclusion

With Network Security being core to companies' infrastructure and operations in the modern age, it should be alarming that employees are often the cause of breaches, and more importantly, that companies often fail to respond to these statistics. To maintain security,

Executives must not rely solely on the software and policies of the IT department, but ensure that all employees, regardless of department, be trained in good practices and how to avoid breaches. The information presented in this memo is only a small portion of the available statistics regarding network breaches, but it should serve its purpose in presenting the core dangers of employee ignorance in regards to network security. Executives must be diligent in training their employees, for the benefit of the entire company.

Bibliography

Daugherty, W. (2016, Jan 6). *Human Error Is to Blame for Most Breaches*. Retrieved from Cyber Security Trend: <http://www.cybersecuritytrend.com/topics/cyber-security/articles/421821-human-error-to-blame-most-breaches.htm>

Yasin, R. (2016, May 24). *Employee Negligence The Cause Of Many Data Breaches*. Retrieved from DarkReading: <http://www.darkreading.com/vulnerabilities---threats/employee-negligence-the-cause-of-many-data-breaches-/d/d-id/1325656>