Module 6 Journal Entry: We have many misconceptions about cybersecurity. Here, hackers tell you about some of our misconceptions. What personal misconceptions did you have before you started to study cybersecurity? Have those been proven right or wrong?

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I did not personally have many misconceptions about cybersecurity before enrolling in my degree but there were some things that came as a surprise. I was personally more worried about having good passwords to prevent it from being cracked by hackers but just from the number of digits mixed with capitals and special characters and numbers would make it not worth most hackers even attempting to hack. I think the misconceptions I had around the cybersecurity space are mostly around how poorly other people protect themselves such as simple passwords that are susceptible to dictionary attacks and easily crackable with 35% of people believing their accounts got hacked because they were using a weak password and 30% believing that information was able to be stolen because they used the same password across multiple accounts (Haan, 2024). I think another thing that surprised me is how successful phishing attacks still are, as commonly known as they are they are low cost and effort enough to send out in mass along with enough people responding to it to make it viable for gathering information and use that information to gain access to organizations systems with the average cost of a data breach being 4.35 million dollars according to IBM (Jones, 2021). Lastly, I think the most surprising thing is how little equipment is needed for people to hack systems, one of the most damaging viruses of modern day was the Stuxnet worm, which was spread through media connected devices like USBs, and ran at a low power level to avoid detection until it caused critical failure in programmable logic controllers (Kushner, 2013).

References

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