Week 6 Journal Entry: The "Human Firewall"

This was a very interesting video to watch and relates to a research paper I am writing for another course. The title "The Human Firewall" is very fitting since it has been shown and shown again that humans are the weakest link in any organization. With the rise in AI, the vulnerabilities are growing with it, and the tactics used by cybercriminals are evolving. Previously, we have spent a lot of time and energy focused on advanced threat detection, but none of that matters much when it comes down to an employee giving up their credentials or clicking on a phishing link.

The video shows that technical defenses can only go so far when protecting networks and private data. The real defense needs to be the people who are controlling access to the data. Employees' behaviors, awareness, and training need to be a primary focus when it comes to digital security. We need to spend more time on the "human firewall" so we can create change and tackle the problem head-on. Security is no longer solely the IT team's problem but now everyone in the organization from the executives to the receptionists.

Social engineering attacks have become the primary attack vector for most cybercriminals because they don't take much capital and are fairly simple to carry out when you get the right target. Hacking techniques such as phishing, SIM swapping, emotional manipulation, and threats/acts of violence have become mainstream within criminal networks. This needs to be part of employee training as it is much easier to spot something and steer clear of it when you know about it.

This video shows that some of the biggest threats we are facing today are no longer purely technical, and we need to train people on the fact that they are now the target for cybercriminals. Employee culture is very important in most companies, and if organizations can get everyone trained and on board with this mentality, the threat landscape can be drastically reduced. The “human firewall” needs to become the strongest point rather than the weakest point.