

Computer Science Capstone

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Contents

Project Outline	3
Description of The Organization.....	3
Problem Statement.	3
Problem Identification.	4
The Potential Impact on The Company.	4
Research as Part of The Project.	5
Primary Areas from A Previous Course	5
References.....	6

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Project Outline

Description of The Organization.

Target Corporation is a top performing company headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota in the U.S. This company deals with retail products such as foodstuff and other general commodities (Nolen, 2018). The company has a logo which is in the form of a bull's eye which has helped market it and makes it known in the entire country. As a discount retailer, the company offers products at relatively affordable prices a factor which attracts consumers and expands its market share. Target has 1,839 branches in the U.S alone. The total number of distribution centers is 39, and the team members are over 350, 000 internationally (Kunal, 2018). Target conducts its business both online and offline. With the company's continual growth, development and success, in 2013, hackers attacked the systems and made away with confidential data as well as monetary resources.

Problem Statement.

Security system entails the entire framework that is used as a boundary of specific components. Most companies utilize security systems which comprise passwords and pin codes which prevent unauthorized people from accessing the system. Target Corporation was on the verge of growth and success in 2013 when hackers attacked its security systems and obtained confidential information.

Problem Identification.

Overview of The Problem.

According to the report, the hackers accessed the payment database and made away with over 40 million debit as well as credit card numbers. As well, telephone numbers, names, emails, together with addresses belonging to customers got lost (Bisk, 2018). The hackers managed to surpass the system's boundaries which are in the form of patterns, pin codes, and passwords and reach private information. They copied the info and tampered with others. The debit as well as credit card information led to the access of customers personal profiles and also their bank accounts. The breach was identified after a month, and it led to the resignation of the company's CEO.

The Potential Impact on The Company.

The massive security breach which affected Target Corporation led to several significant effects to the company's outstanding performance (Heagney, 2018). The company lost high revenue during the breach. The hackers transferred over \$ 20 million to a separate account before proceeding to other areas. They took customers debit as well as credit numbers which they used to attack them individually and access their bank accounts. Besides, the hackers accessed customers private information such as their emails, private addresses, and even phone numbers. This is a serious threat since with this information they can reach to them and attack them either physically or as far as their properties are concerned.

Research as Part of The Project.

To explore the subject matter on how hackers attacked target Corporation's security system in 2013, I will conduct extensive integrated research which will involve different sources. I will first consult the company's reports to get the general impression of the incidence. I will then check and assess the security system used by the firm to find out how the hackers managed to surpass it and access the confidential information. This will help me identify the weaknesses associated with the system, and this will make it easy for me to suggest recommendations to prevent such cases from happening in the future. Lastly, I will consult other computer sciences peer-reviewed sources to help me suggest useful recommendations as a solution to this problem.

Primary Areas from A Previous Course.

The material from the previous course will be important when it comes to suggesting the recommendations since it contains a detailed description of the security system concept. The topics on cybersecurity which are part of the previous course will also be included when developing the content of this project. The reason behind this is that the issues are related and the course already discussed all of them extensively. As such, information on security breaches which is found in the previous course will be highly beneficial in the projects.

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