Be Smarter Than A Hacker

Cyber Security Awareness Month

Human Error still drives the majority of cyber security breaches.

The foundations of cybercrime are based on the humans behind it. A single mistake by one employee can be all it takes for a serious cyber incident to occur.

The Anatomy of Human Error in Cybersecurity Breaches

- **Social Engineering Attacks:** Cybercriminals often use psychological manipulation to exploit human vulnerabilities. Techniques like phishing rely on tricking individuals into revealing sensitive information or granting access to secure systems even if technical defences are robust.
- **Weak Passwords:** Password related errors, such as using easily guessable passwords or a lack of Multi-Factor Authentication, open the door to hackers.
- **Neglecting Software Updates:** Failing to update software, operating systems and applications allows hackers to exploit known vulnerabilities. Regular updates are a must.
- **Improper Handling of Data:** Mishandling sensitive data, such as leaving it unattended or sending it through unsecured channels can lead to a data breach.
- **Unintentional Sharing of Information:** Employees may innocently share sensitive information on social media or other platforms which can be used by cybercriminals to craft convincing spear-phishing attacks.
- **Physical Security:** Leaving doors unlocked or failing to challenge unauthorised individuals can compromise the security of secure areas.
- **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policies:** While BYOD policies can improve employee productivity, they also introduce security risks. Personal devices may lack proper security measures, potentially exposing the company to vulnerabilities.
- **Third Party Risks:** Employees may interact with third party vendors, suppliers or service providers who may not uphold the same security standards. Weaknesses in third party entities can expose organisations.

All the best security in the world cannot protect you when you open the front door to your network.

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Humans can be your greatest asset instead of your greatest weakness.

Mitigating the threat of human error with the right tools and training empowers employees to be the first line of defence against any cyber-attack, protecting your business in the long run.

How Do We Become Smarter Than A Hacker?

- **Stay Informed:** Continuously educate yourself and your team about the latest cyber threats and best practices.
- **Use Strong, Unique Passwords or Passphrases:** Creating complex passwords and using different passwords for different programs or systems will make it difficult for cybercriminals to gain access.
- **Enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):** MFA adds an extra layer of security by requiring at least 2 forms of verification and should be enabled on all programs where available.
- **Keep Software Updated:** Regularly updating operating systems, software and applications will stop cybercriminals exploiting known vulnerabilities. This is also known as system patching.
- **Verify The Source:** Always double-check the source of emails, links and attachments before interacting with them.
- **Encrypt Sensitive Data:** Use encryption tools to protect sensitive data in transit and at rest.
- **Invest in Employee Training:** Foster a culture of vigilance and security awareness within your organisation with cybersecurity training for all employees.

Mistakes happen...

When they do, ATC's Cyber Policy is there to help pick up the pieces with comprehensive coverage to combat Human Error threats. We're on call 24/7, with cybersecurity specialists providing vital assistance when you need it most.

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