PREY: TRAPPED IN THE CYBER WEB

by:
Bernadette M. Medina

We are now in the very face of more industrial and technological evolution. Our lives were changed, transformed, and influenced by technology and modernity. We utilize it in every aspect of our lives, further cementing its significance in our society and human development. May it be in communication, education, commerce, services, trades, and more, technology has its application. Moreover, a whole new world of connectedness, automation, accuracy, and efficiency will be brought about by advances in artificial intelligence, 5G, and cloud and edge computing will soon be in sight. However, as our world increasingly depends on technology, dangers and threats to both security and privacy have and will surface.

One of the greatest strengths of the digital age is connectivity. Through the use of different gadgets and the internet, the barriers created by distance, time, and separation of borders are things of the past. News, information, data, and more can reach the other side of the world in seconds and minutes. Social media has made it easier for people to communicate with loved ones, share their thoughts and interests, and have a glimpse of other people's lives.

The world is interconnected now more than ever. Nevertheless, this interconnectedness has amplified the risk of cyber-related attacks and terrorism caused by loopholes and vulnerability of systems, and the lack of cyber security awareness and preparation. The data and information of companies, businesses, and people are constantly at risk due to more complex assaults involving malware, phishing, machine learning, artificial intelligence, cryptocurrencies, and more. Tensions, economic

25 August 2022

disruptions, and social and geopolitical conflicts are results of distortion and manipulation of information. On top of this, cyber-threats can cause a widescale electrical outage, control of military equipment, breach of national and international security and safety, and theft of valuable and sensitive data. As the webs of cybercrimes spread wider and the predators lurking become stealthier, more people fall victim and become entrapped prey.

Cyber attacks are not static and are ever-evolving. Every day, hundreds of different types are being developed by hackers for financial gain, disruption, espionage, and theft among others. We must recognize that these threats are very much real and dangerous and learn to protect ourselves. Governments should put efforts and allocate budgets into training and hiring cyber professionals and security. Policies and laws must be enforced, and the existing ones fortified to protect the people and their data and privacy. Lastly, we too must be responsible and limit the information we share online. Be vigilant and smart in using software applications, be discrete in passwords, and use legit and certified antivirus, malware solutions, and firewalls to help us block threats. Our safety is in our own hands.

References:

Durbin, S. (2022, June 15). Four Major Cyber Risks In An Era Of Tech Dominance. Forbes. https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesbusinesscouncil/2022/03/14/4-major-cyber-risks-in-an-era-of-tech-dominance/?sh=4a2177372b10

U.S Department of Homeland Security. (2022). Cybersecurity | Ready.gov. Ready.Gov. https://www.ready.gov/cybersecurity

What Are Cyber Threats and What to Do About Them. (2021, September 9). The Missing Report. https://preyproject.com/blog/en/what-are-cyber-threats-how-they-affect-you-what-to-do-about-them/

25 August 2022