

End of term paper

Objective: Analyze the breach causations related to cybersecurity event scenarios.

Competencies: Critical thinking, communication skills

Select one of three companies involved in a cybersecurity breach event:

1. Briefly describe the organizations and their missions (stated on their website).
2. Identify and evaluate the breach event.
3. For each organization, recommend changes to their security controls that could have better protected customers' data.

You may need to use trade journals and newspaper stories in your reference list. However, try to avoid opinion pieces (like blogs) that may not be factual. You may state your own opinions, but these must be strengthened by scholarly references.

Prepare your paper in Word format, 12-point font, length 5-7 pages. It should be double-spaced with one-inch margins all around.

Papers must include the following: cover page, introduction, section headings, conclusions,

*Companies to choose from:

Equifax Breach	https://republicans-oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Equifax-Report.pdf
Home Depot Breach	https://www.sans.org/reading-room/whitepapers/casestudies/case-study-home-depot-data-breach-36367
Target Breach	https://www.sans.org/reading-room/whitepapers/casestudies/paper/35412

GRADING RUBRIC

Criteria	Excellent A (90+)	Satisfactory B (80-89)	Needs Improvement (below 80)
Content (80%)			
Analysis of breach (35%)	The comparisons are thoroughly developed and clearly stated.	The comparisons are adequately developed and clearly stated.	The comparisons are neither adequately developed nor clearly stated.
Clarity of changes needed to prevent breach (35%)	The changes suggested are thorough and likely to enhance security protection for consumers.	The changes suggested are adequate and can logically be expected to enhance security protection for consumers.	The changes suggested are poorly developed and/or are unlikely to enhance security protection.
Quality of documented support (10%)	The discussion in the paper is based on a thorough review of the literature, not limited to news articles, and includes reviews of position or policy statements or reports from agencies or organizations, and other scholarly resources.	The discussion in the paper is based on an adequate review of the literature.	The scope of the research presented in the paper is inadequate. Heavy reliance on reference material (e.g. Wikipedia, exam prep books, "Dummies" guides).
Form (20%)			
Organization (10%)	The Table of Contents (TOC) and the document sub-headings reflect a careful outline of the questions asked in the assignment. The content is well organized with clear transitions among major subtopics.	The content is generally well organized with some improvement possible in transitions among subtopics.	The organization of the content is confusing without clear transitions among subtopics.
Writing style (10%)	The introduction is written to give a preview of each sub-heading topic.	Writing is acceptable, with a few errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, and/or sentence structure.	Writing does not meet standards. Unacceptable number of errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar and/or sentence structure.

Group Project

The group project is a group exercise called "*Back in Time*". Each group will be assigned executives at Equifax, Target, Heartland Payment Systems, and OPM. These companies had large breaches performed by criminal elements. Groups will get to be executives 30 days BEFORE the breach. Groups will build and implement the appropriate controls to protect the company. The control architecture will be presented to the class and subsequently evaluated. Instructor will assess if the new architecture could have prevented the disastrous outcome.