MIKEY D'S STORYTELLIN' BLOG

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Security in Cyberia

Before taking this class or studying social media in-depth, I don't believe I was aware of or concerned with my cyberspace activities. Sure, I took some precautions as I did not want people stealing my info (such as identity, bank information, passwords, etc.) I always thought, " I use Norton software. That protection is good enough."

https://us.norton.com/

I did not care, nor think about, nor understand the extent to which companies or people use my data. Taking a class in Social Media and now Digital Media Literacy opened my eyes. "It is said that in the 21st Century that data is the modern-day version of oil or gold." This quote by Simon Eacott, Head of Payments Innovation and Business Development for

NatWest (National Westminster Bank, a notable retail and commercial bank in the U.K.), sums up the importance of taking digital security seriously.

Finextra Research – Simon Eacott Interview

In a blog post for Digital Guardian, Juliana De Groot defines Cyber Security as " the body of technologies, processes, and practices designed to protect networks, devices, programs, and data from attack, damage, or unauthorized access. Cyber Security may also be referred to as information technology security."

https://digitalguardian.com/blog/what-cyber-security

Norton software is a good start, but I need to guard my data better. The National Cybersecurity Alliance developed a great strategy that I can implement to secure myself online.

The National Cybersecurity Alliance recommends five steps.

- "**Identifying** and understanding which business assets ("digital crown jewels") others want
- Learning how to **protect** those assets
- **Detecting** when something has gone wrong
- **Responding** quickly to minimize impact and implement an action plan
- Learning what resources are needed to **recover** after a breach

Though The National Cybersecurity Alliance recommends this method for small to medium-sized businesses, I think I can use it to safeguard my online presence. Therefore I will modify it to explain how.

By "Identifying," I can determine what data of mine cyber thieves consider to "high-value." The National Cybersecurity Alliance dubs this "Crown jewels." "Crown jewels" are any information that is essential for you to live your daily life. Recognizing and logging where my data is kept and knowing who has access to it completes this first step.

Now that I know what my data is, I can figure out how to protect it. An easy way to defend my online presence is to make sure my security software is current. Fortunately, I already do this as I keep auto-updates on. Therefore it makes it simple because I do not have to keep track of when I have been updating my security program. Deleting Emails with shady links, cleaning my computer, and restricting who I give my information to are additional ways to complete the second step.

Detecting when something may be wrong is the third step. Being cautious about what I click on, whether it be Email or websites, will go along way to eliminate threats.

The fourth step is Responding. If a data hack happens, having a recovery plan is crucial. Backing up my computers is an excellent way to retain my data and come back from a breach.

My fifth and final step expands on recovery and recommends learning from mistakes. Educating myself about potential breaches and scams will allow me not to make the same mistake over and over again.

While this is a good plan for computers, protecting my smart devices requires another approach. The Laura Flanders Show's YouTube video "Digital Security 101: How To Secure Your iPhone" provides an easy method to protect your phone from cyber hacks. Some ways they suggest are using a PIN code, clearing old text messages, and using a meta-data scrubber.

The Laura Flanders Show – Digital Security 101: How To Secure Your iPhone

An interesting and recent Netflix documentary called "The Social Dilemma" discusses Social Media's role and goes into data breaches.

The Social Dilemma | Official Trailer | Netflix

Another Netflix documentary, "The Great Hack," discusses the impact of the Cambridge Analytica scandal.

The Great Hack | Official Trailer | Netflix

Even if you think you're safe online, it is essential to remain vigilant when protecting your online data.

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