Security of An Organization's Information in the Digital Age

by

Nurehan Azwana Khairu Din
(2000497697)

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Abstract

Information is the focus in today's world. It is regarded as a resource, power and commodity. With the advancement of technology, information is able to be stored in digital form. This technology brings both positive and negative implications to the users. Among the highlighted issues regarding digital technology is the security of the information. Thus, this paper will discuss the security of digital information in an organisation which will cover the background of digital information security, its importance, security measures and relevant issues. The discussions are from the non-technical perspective and the methodology adopted is library research.

Keywords

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The problem of information security has changed in the digital era. Society and business organizations are becoming dependent on computer and data resources in their daily transactions. Thus, dependency on computer for its functions may affect human life when the computer systems fail or experience serious destruction.

Moreover, in today's world, business organisations cannot avoid themselves from permitting organisational information systems to be connected to the Internet because it has moved from being the communication tools of the experts to the primary route of information exchange for everyone. The Net consists of a large number of computers connected by wires that carry data. Permitting organisational computer networks to access the Internet opens the door for an attack from a huge number of people on the Internet, which extend throughout the world.

A computer system that has no access to the outside world is the safest because it is under the control of local users. Connecting the organisation's computer or Intranet means that this control is lost as the number of people gaining access is tremendously increased.

In 1993, a survey of 246 companies in the US was conducted which revealed that the monthly rate of incidents involving the theft of proprietary information rose 260 percent from 1985 to 1993. In another survey carried out in the same year, 98.5 percent of the respondents indicated that their businesses had been victimized by computer criminals, with 43.3 percent reporting that they had been victimized more than twenty-five times.

Furthermore, it was reported that in 1991, computer crimes cost an estimated 2.5 billion pounds annually in the UK. While the losses in the US was now estimated at $10 billion.