



Company Hacked by North Korean Cyber Criminal Post Hiring Mistake

Description

A recent incident has come to light where a company fell victim to a cyber attack after unknowingly hiring a North Korean hacker as a remote IT worker. The hacker managed to infiltrate the company's network, exfiltrate sensitive data, and then demand a ransom. This firm, based in the UK, US, or Australia, chose to stay anonymous but allowed cyber responders from Secureworks to disclose the incident to raise awareness.

This case is part of a concerning trend where North Korean operatives are masquerading as remote workers in Western companies to bypass sanctions and fund their regime. Companies have been warned about the risks associated with hiring individuals remotely, especially in light of these incidents.

According to Rafe Pilling, the Director of Threat Intelligence at Secureworks, this escalation in fraudulent schemes poses a significant threat to companies. North Korean operatives are no longer just seeking a steady income but are now engaging in data theft and extortion for higher sums.

This incident is not an isolated one, as another North Korean IT worker was recently caught attempting to hack their employer. KnowBe4, a cybersecurity company, managed to detect and disable the hacker's access to their systems promptly.

Employers are advised to exercise caution when hiring remote workers, conduct thorough background checks, and remain vigilant for any suspicious behavior. With the rise of sophisticated cyber attacks, companies must prioritize cybersecurity measures to safeguard their assets and protect against potential threats.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Infiltrate** /'ɪn.fil.treɪt/ (verb): To enter or gain access to an organization or system secretly and gradually.
2. **Exfiltrate** /'eks.fil.treɪt/ (verb): To covertly remove data from a computer or network.
3. **Ransom** /'ræn.səm/ (noun): A sum of money demanded for the release of a captured person or goods.
4. **Operative** /'ɒp.ər.ə.tɪv/ (noun): A person who works for a business or organization often in a clandestine or undercover manner.
5. **Extortion** /ɪk'stɔːr.jən/ (noun): The practice of obtaining something especially money through force or threats.
6. **Vigilant** /'vɪdʒ.ɪ.lənt/ (adjective): Keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What nationality was the North Korean hacker involved in the cyber attack?
Option: North Korean
Option: Chinese
Option: Russian
Option: American
2. Which cybersecurity company disclosed the incident involving the North Korean hacker?
Option: Secureworks
Option: KnowBe4
Option: FireEye
Option: CrowdStrike
3. What type of data did the hacker exfiltrate from the company's network?
Option: Sensitive data
Option: Public data
Option: Non-sensitive data
Option: Financial data
4. What is the recommendation for employers when hiring remote workers?
Option: Conduct thorough background checks
Option: Skip background checks
Option: Hire based on skills alone
Option: Ignore any suspicious behavior
5. Why are North Korean operatives masquerading as remote workers in Western companies?
Option: To bypass sanctions
Option: For leisure
Option: To learn new skills
Option: To promote peace
6. What is the primary motivation for North Korean operatives engaging in cyber attacks according to Rafe Pilling?
Option: Data theft and extortion
Option: Ethical hacking
Option: Network security improvement
Option: Software development



True-False

- 7. The company victim to the cyber attack was based in the UK, US, or Australia.
- 8. North Korean IT workers have only been involved in isolated incidents of hacking.
- 9. KnowBe4 successfully prevented a North Korean hacker from accessing their systems.
- 10. Employers are not warned about the risks of hiring remote workers by cybersecurity experts.
- 11. North Korean operatives are now seeking higher sums through data theft and extortion.
- 12. Companies are not advised to prioritize cybersecurity measures against potential threats.

Gap-Fill

- 13. According to the information provided, North Korean operatives are masquerading as remote workers in Western companies to bypass _____.
- 14. Rafe Pilling highlighted that North Korean operatives are no longer seeking just a steady income but are now engaging in data theft and _____ for higher sums.
- 15. Employers are advised to exercise caution when hiring remote workers, conduct thorough background checks, and remain vigilant for any suspicious _____.
- 16. Companies must prioritize cybersecurity measures to safeguard their assets and protect against potential _____.
- 17. The rise of sophisticated cyber attacks has led to a heightened focus on cybersecurity to secure company _____.



18. KnowBe4 promptly detected and disabled the North Korean hacker's access to their

_____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. North Korean 2. Secureworks 3. Sensitive data 4. Conduct thorough background checks
5. To bypass sanctions 6. Data theft and extortion

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. sanctions 14. extortion 15. behavior 16. threats 17. assets 18. systems

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is the primary purpose of an analgesic?

Option: To alleviate pain

Option: To induce sleep

Option: To increase heart rate

Option: To reduce blood pressure

2. What can lead to frustration when imposed on individuals?

Option: Freedom

Option: Restrictions

Option: Opportunities

Option: Empathy

3. Which medical condition involves abnormal cell growth?

Option: Diabetes

Option: Arthritis

Option: Tumour

Option: Asthma

4. Which term is related to blood vessels?

Option: Vascular

Option: Digestive

Option: Muscular

Option: Skeletal



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5. Which scientific technique involves studying objects using a microscope?
- Option: Microscopy
 - Option: Photography
 - Option: Astronomy
 - Option: Geology
6. What is a demand for the release of a captive in exchange for money called?
- Option: Bargain
 - Option: Ransom
 - Option: Gift
 - Option: Donation
7. Which term describes obtaining something through coercion?
- Option: Negotiation
 - Option: Extortion
 - Option: Compromise
 - Option: Agreement
8. What does proximity refer to?
- Option: Distance
 - Option: Time
 - Option: Weight
 - Option: Volume
9. What does the term "allure" mean?
- Option: Repel
 - Option: Attract
 - Option: Shine
 - Option: Disappear
10. What does "dwindling" indicate?
- Option: Increasing
 - Option: Decreasing
 - Option: Stable
 - Option: Growing

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. An _____ is a medication that helps _____ pain.
12. Cell _____ is essential for the communication and coordination of various cellular



activities.

13. _____ arises when obstacles prevent the accomplishment of goals or fulfillment of needs.

14. Navigating through the _____ of modern life can be challenging.

15. The spy managed to _____ the enemy camp without being detected.

16. The undercover agent went on a secret _____ to gather intelligence.

17. Security guards need to stay _____ to prevent any breaches.

18. The company reached the _____ of success with its latest product launch.

19. The famous singer is known by the _____ "Queen of Pop."

20. The _____ of the disease has increased over the past decade.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)



21. Patients may experience after undergoing anesthesia.
22. The care is crucial for the recovery of surgical patients.
23. There are legal for violating traffic rules.
24. Strict govern the handling of hazardous materials.
25. Drug can lead to unexpected side effects.
26. The process of growing fruit on trees is known as .
27. The glass allowed light to pass through but blurred the view.
28. The spy managed to sensitive information from the enemy base.
29. The beauty of the landscape held a mysterious .
30. The of international diplomacy require skilled negotiators.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. To alleviate pain 2. Restrictions 3. Tumour 4. Vascular 5. Microscopy 6. Ransom 7. Extortion 8. Distance 9. Attract 10. Decreasing

Gap-Fill: 11. analgesic, alleviate 12. signaling 13. Frustration 14. complexities 15. infiltrate 16. operative 17. vigilant 18. apogee 19. moniker 20. incidence

Matching sentence: 1. Disorientation 2. Postoperative 3. Penalties 4. Regulations 5. Interactions 6. Fruiting 7. Translucent 8. Exfiltrate 9. Allure 10. Complexities

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL5

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