Seminar 1: Exploring Human Behaviours and its Impact on Security of Systems

Prior to this week's seminar, **read**:

- The study published Zhang et al. (2017) titled "Information security behaviours of smartphone users in China: an empirical analysis".
  This paper provides a window to understanding user attitudes and behaviours towards the use of smartphones and their security implications based on data collected in China.

Then **reflect** on:

- The data collection techniques used.
- The alternative data collection techniques that could be employed.
- The security technology being researched.
- Any alternative approaches that could be applied.

We will review the study during the seminar, as well as the assessment guidance.

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1. The data techniques were qualitative – a self-disclosure questionaire then subjected to the Pearson's Chi-Square Test to add some quantitative validity.

2. Alternative data collection could include:
   - rate of smartphone compromise through archival data and statistical analysis
   - a "dummy" test wherein random people are sent hypertext links and researchers document the rate of compromise
   - a questionnaire which focuses on perceived threat as well as threat prevention techniques

3. Security technology:
   - password use
   - anti-virus software
   - SPAM filtering
   - back-up storage

4. Possible alternative approaches:
   - Multi-factor authentication vs password-only
   - how often OS updates are installed
   - browser settings / browser use (Chrome vs Firefox, etc.)
   - success rate of anti-virus software when employed