Review 1

1. Introduction

Peer review is an essential aspect of academic growth employed to encourage the highest quality research (Forsberg et al., 2022). The following review intends to uphold the virtues of this exercise and provide a critique of *Assignment 1* (University of Essex, 2023).

2. Essay Analysis

The author demonstrates a keen understanding of startup security needs and difficulties throughout the essay. It is very clear how each human factor could effect the startup environment if manipulated. In contrast, human-level psychological influences on these factors are not deeply discussed.

While definitions are consistently robust, the 'why' and 'how' of human-centric topics, such as "employee characteristics [and] learning styles" (Majola, 2023), are not provided. These omissions present a somewhat incomplete narrative of social engineering vulnerability.

Listed outcomes are exacting and relevant, though not evenly distributed throughout the paper. Doing so could provide a better understanding of each factor's influence on outcomes.

With the above in mind, further extrapolation could include:

- How resistance to change and complacency are leveraged by malicious actors (McIlwraith, 2022)

- How individual characteristics influence compliance (Bello et al., 2021)

- Why certain personalities are more likely to be manipulated (Eftimie et al., 2022)

- Which outcomes utilize the above factors

3. Conclusion

This review has sought to provide a constructive critique of *Assignment 1*. The essay's

content has been analyzed and possible improvements suggested.

4. References

Bello, A., Moustafa, A. A., and Maurushat, A. (2021) The Role of User Behaviour in Improving Cyber Security Management. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12: 1 – 9

Eftimie, S., Moinescu, R., and Răcuciu, C. (2022) Spear-Phishing Susceptibility Stemming from Personality Traits. *IEEE Access*, 10. IEEE: 73548 – 73561 [online] Available at: https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/stamp/stamp.jsp?tp=&arnumber=9826749 [Accessed: 28 May, 2023]

Forsberg, E., Geschwind, L., Levander, S., and Wermke, W. (2022) Peer Review in Academia. In: *Peer Review in an Era of Evaluation: Understanding the Practice of Gatekeeping in Academia*. Cham, CH: Palgrave Macmillian: 3 – 36. [online] Available at: https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12657/52451/978-3-030-75263-7.pdf;jsessionid=1027C46D31DE88588537E82D4CCC1C30?sequence=1 [Accessed: 27 May, 2023]

Majola, N. (2023) Individual Essay – Turnitin ID2098295086. *The Human Factor May 2023*. University of Essex. [online] Available at: https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=161274 [Accessed: 28 May, 2023]

McIlwraith, A. (2022) *Information Security and Employee Behaviour: How to Reduce Risk through Employee Education, Training, and Awareness*. New York: Routledge.

University of Essex (2023) Assignment 1: Individual Essay. *The Human Factor May 2023*. University of Essex. [online] Available at: https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/assign/view.php?id=811082 [Accessed: 28 May, 2023]

Review 2

1. Introduction

The peer review process is an important asset to academic growth employed to foster communal intellectual exchange (Forsberg et al., 2022). The following review intends to uphold the virtues of this exercise and provide a critique of *Assignment 1* (University of Essex, 2023).

2. Human Factor Relevance

The author provides robust definitions and convincing arguments concerning the importance of technological "usability, functionality, and security" (Monsi, 2023) throughout the paper. While important, these technological aspects overshadow the psychological factors critical to social engineering, which could have been more deeply explored. Relevant topics could include

- Which psychological factors most influence security awareness (Binder et al., 2020)
- How stress may impact password guideline compliance (Fordyce et al., 2017)
- Why insiders perform malicious acts (Brackney et al., 2005; Dupuis & Khadeer, 2016)

to better demonstrate the human-based relevance of the technological factors highlighted.

3. Outcome Relevance

The provided security outcomes include a formidable breadth of topics with direct consequence to the factors discussed in the essay. It is not immediately clear, though, how each outcome is related to its human factor. Demonstrating specific incidences of manipulation could

have better showcased the relationship between social engineering and the human factors involved to create a more complete narrative.

4. Conclusion

This review has sought to provide a constructive critique of *Assignment 1*. The author's use of human factors and outcome relevance were assessed and discussed.

5. References

Binder, J., Hadlington, L., and Stanulewicz, N. (2020) Fear of Missing Out Predicts Employee Information Security Awareness Above Personality traits, Age, Gender. *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Network*, 23 (7): 459 - 464

Brackney et al. (2005) Analysis and Detection of Malicious Insiders. In: *2005 International Conference on Intelligence Analysis*. McLean, VA: Mitre: 1- 8

Dupuis, M. and Khadeer, S. (2016) Curiosity Killed the Organization: A Psycholoical Comparison between Malicious and Non-Malicious Insiders and the Insider Threat. In: *5th Annual Conference on Research in Information Technology (RIIT'16)*. Boston, MA: ACM: 35 – 40

Fordyce, T., Green, S., and Groß, T. (2017) Investigation of the Effect of Fear and Stress on Password Choice. In: *Workshop on Socio-Technical Aspects in Security and Trust (STAST'2017)*. Orlando, Florida: 1 - 13

Forsberg, E., Geschwind, L., Levander, S., and Wermke, W. (2022) Peer Review in Academia. In: *Peer Review in an Era of Evaluation: Understanding the Practice of Gatekeeping in Academia*. Cham, CH: Palgrave Macmillian: 3 – 36. [online] Available at: https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12657/52451/978-3-030-75263-7.pdf;jsessionid=1027C46D31DE88588537E82D4CCC1C30?sequence=1 [Accessed: 27 May, 2023]

Monsi, B. (2023) Individual Essay – Turnitin ID2097809991. *The Human Factor May 2023*. University of Essex. [online] Available at: https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=161111 [Accessed: 27 May, 2023]

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