Securing Devices

AP Cybersecurity · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
embedded computer /emˈbedɪd kəmˈpjuːtə/	A washing machine has an **embedded computer**.
Internet of Things (IoT) /ˈɪntənet ɒv θɪŋz/	Smart lights are part of the **Internet of Things (IoT)**.
handheld computers /ˈhændheld kəmˈpjuːtəz/	Phones and tablets are **handheld computers**.
malware /ˈmælweə/	A virus is a kind of **malware**.
Virus /ˈvaɪrəs/	A **virus** spreads when you run an infected file.
Worm /wɜːm/	A **worm** spreads by itself across a network.
Trojan /ˈtrəʊdʒn/	A **Trojan** looks like a useful program but is harmful.
remote access trojan (RAT) /rɪˈməʊt ˈækses ˈtrəʊdʒn/	A **remote access trojan (RAT)** lets an attacker control your computer.
Ransomware /ˈrænsəmweə/	**Ransomware** locks your files and asks for money.
Spyware /ˈspaɪweə/	**Spyware** secretly watches what you do.
Keylogger /ˈkiːlɒgə/	A **keylogger** records everything you type.
Logic bomb /ˈlɒdʒɪk bɒm/	A **logic bomb** goes off on a set date.
fileless malware /ˈfaɪlləs ˈmælweə/	**Fileless malware** runs in memory, so no file is saved.

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RAM /ræm/	**RAM** loses its data when the power goes off.
unpatched software /ʌnˈpætʃt ˈsɒftweə/	**Unpatched software** has known holes that attackers use.
cryptographic hash function /ˌkrɪptəˈgræfɪk hæʃ ˈfʌŋkʃn/	A **cryptographic hash function** turns data into a fixed-length code.
hash /hæʃ/	If one letter changes, the **hash** changes completely.
collision resistant /kəˈlɪʒn rɪˈzɪstənt/	A **collision resistant** hash makes it hard to find two inputs with the same output.
pre-image resistance /priː ˈɪmɪdʒ rɪˈzɪstəns/	**Pre-image resistance** means you cannot get the input back from the hash.
deprecated /ˈdeprɪkeɪtɪd/	MD5 is **deprecated**: it should no longer be used. MD5
salt /sɒlt/	A **salt** is random data added to a password before hashing.
brute force /bruːt fɔːs/	A **brute force** attack tries every possible password.
dictionary attack /ˈdɪkʃənəri əˈtæk/	A **dictionary attack** tries common words as passwords.
password spraying /ˈpæswɜːd ˈspreɪɪŋ/	**Password spraying** tries one common password on many accounts.
credential stuffing /krɪˈdenʃl ˈstʌfɪŋ/	**Credential stuffing** tries stolen passwords on other websites.
rainbow table /ˈreɪnbəʊ ˈteɪbl/	A **rainbow table** is a list of hashes worked out in advance.

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complexity /kəm'pleksɪti/	Password **complexity** rules ask for numbers and symbols.
minimum length /'mɪnɪməm leŋθ/	The **minimum length** for a password is 12 characters. 12
maximum age /'mæksɪməm eɪdʒ/	The **maximum age** of a password is 90 days. 90
password history /'pæswɜ:d 'hɪstəri/	**Password history** stops you reusing an old password.
lockout /'lɒkaʊt/	A **lockout** blocks the account after five wrong tries.
password manager /'pæswɜ:d 'mænɪdʒə/	A **password manager** stores all your passwords safely.
biometric /ˌbaɪəʊ'metrɪk/	A fingerprint scan is a **biometric** check.
multifactor authentication (MFA) /ˌmʌltɪ'fæktə ɔ:ˌθenti'keɪʃn/	**Multifactor authentication (MFA)** asks for a password and a code from your phone.
autorun /ˌɔ:təʊ'rʌn/	Turn off **autorun** so USB sticks do not start programs by themselves. USB
acceptable use policy /ək'septəbl ju:s 'pɒlɪsi/	The **acceptable use policy** says what you may do on school computers.
Anti-malware software /'ænti 'mælweə 'sɒftweə/	**Anti-malware software** finds and removes viruses.
patch /pætʃ/	Install the **patch** to fix the security hole.
host-based firewall /həʊst beɪst 'faɪəwɔ:l/	A **host-based firewall** protects one computer.

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Word	Example
indicator of compromise (IoC) /'ɪndɪkeɪtə ɒv 'kɒmprəmaɪz/	A strange new user account is an **indicator of compromise (IoC)**.
endpoint detection and response (EDR) /end'pɔɪnt dɪ'tekʃn ænd rɪ'spɒns/	**Endpoint detection and response (EDR)** watches each laptop for attacks.