

Team 1

Information Security - Executive Summary

With the exponential increase in data saved and consumed with digital systems such as computers and the internet, the importance of securing sensitive data has also increased. In this report, we are exploring the topic of Information Security and the role it has played, and continues to play in society.

The report will start with a brief history of Information Security, summarizing the hacking phenomenon of the past few decades since the 1970s. We will explore the current legislation enforced by the Canadian and United States governments with regards to information security, as well as explore the role of large corporations in information security.

A view of ethics and ethical behaviour will be elaborated. We will study a few cases of whistleblowing, the effect and impact it had in society, and the ethical implications of such cases. Some notable cases of whistleblowing being explored include: William Binney and Edward Snowden whom both worked at the NSA; Julian Assange from WikiLeaks; and the case of Citigroup Corp where a whistle-blower prevented a major catastrophe.

Finally, some insight will be given with regards to the future of Information Security. Different measures have been taken to preserve information security over the decades. However, it has been noted that humans are the weakest element in the cyber security forefront because unlike machines, humans are unpredictable and easily compromised. A potential solution to mitigate the risk of security breaches will be analysed. Ultimately, with evolving technology and threats, governments and civilians will need to work together to determine the best consensus between surveillance and privacy.