The Mismanagement of Information Security

Peter C. Gardiner

University of Southern California

U.S.A.

Efaim Turban

Eastern Illinois University

U.S.A.

Abstract

Computer security problems can be either technical and/or managerial. This paper deals with the managerial aspects. Specifically, the paper defines the problem and describes its importance. Then ten major difficulties of managing information security are discussed. The results of a field study conducted about the threats and the potential damage. Two gaps exist between the managers that approve plans and budgets for information security and the information security practitioners. First, there is a lack of managerial awareness about information security (including basic terminology) and second, there is a gap between the security threats and the organizational measures that are taken to reduce there threats. The paper ends with some suggestions of how to close the above gaps.

Keywords: Computer security, Computer crimes, Data integrity, Threats, Intruders, Computer virus,Vulnerability.