Microsoft blames U.S. spy agency for WannaCry

18th May, 2017

The technology company Microsoft is angry with America's National Security Agency (NSA). Microsoft said the WannaCry ransomware cyber-attack happened because the NSA keeps lots of cyber-weapons on its computers. Ransomware is a type of harmful software that blocks access to a computer until the owner of the computer pays money (a ransom) to the hackers. The NSA is America's military intelligence organization. It helps to keep America's communications and information systems safe. It is also responsible for stopping cyber-attacks against the USA. However, experts say the WannaCry ransomware used computer spying tools originally designed by the NSA.

Microsoft president Brad Smith said governments needed to wake up to the problem of storing cyber-weapons that hackers can steal. He said it was as big a problem as someone stealing missiles from the USA. When talking about the WannaCry attack, he said: "This attack provides yet another example of why the stockpiling of [these things] by governments is such a problem." The European police agency Europol said WannaCry has affected 200,000 computers in 150 countries. In the UK, WannaCry caused many problems with the work of Britain's National Health Service. Many operations were cancelled. Experts warned people to back up their files because a second wave of attacks could come.

Sources: *invesors.com / latimes.com / theverge.com*

Writing

Cyber-attacks are the biggest danger to the world. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

technology / company / cyber-attack / software / intelligence / systems / spying / wake up / cyber-weapons / missiles / police / ransomware / experts / wave / back up

True / False

a) The article says America's NSA is angry with Microsoft. T / F

b) America's National Security Agency has cyber-weapons on its computers. T / F

c) Ransomware means people must pay hackers to access their files. T / F

d) The WannaCry hackers used spying tools first created by the NSA. T / F

e) Microsoft's president said governments needed to wake up. T / F

f) Brad Smith said governments storing cyber-weapons isn't dangerous. T / F

g) The WannaCry ransomware affected over 250,000 computers. T / F

h) Experts said the wave of attacks was now over. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**angry**	a.	presents
2.	**happened**	b.	furious
3.	**harmful**	c.	keeping
4.	**responsible for**	d.	occurred
5.	**originally**	e.	created
6.	**storing**	f.	first
7.	**stealing**	g.	in charge of
8.	**provides**	h.	advised
9.	**caused**	i.	thieving
10.	**warned**	j.	dangerous

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you know about the WannaCry ransomware?

b) How dangerous are cyber-attacks?

c) How could cyber-attacks be used in wars?

d) What is ransomware?

e) How bad would it be if you lost access to all your computer files?

f) What do you do to protect your computer?

g) What cyber-attacks do you know about?

h) Why can't governments stop hackers?

Phrase Match

1.	Microsoft is angry with America's	a.	wake up to the problem
2.	harmful software that blocks	b.	(a ransom) to the hackers
3.	pays money	c.	tools
4.	It is also responsible	d.	computers in 150 countries
5.	computer spying	e.	up their files
6.	governments needed to	f.	access to a computer
7.	This attack provides yet	g.	of attacks could come
8.	WannaCry has affected 200,000	h.	for stopping cyber-attacks
9.	Experts warned people to back	i.	another example of why
10.	a second wave	j.	National Security Agency

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think about what you read?

b) How worried are you about cyber-attacks?

c) How much would you pay to get access to your computer files?

d) What damage can hackers do?

e) Are the hackers more intelligent than the computer security companies?

f) Can you live without a computer?

g) What would happen if hackers stopped the Internet?

h) What questions would you like to ask the boss of the NSA?

Spelling

1. The ooneychgtl company Microsoft

2. a type of ulrhamf software

3. iylmirta intelligence

4. information tssesym

5. slpbnesioer for stopping cyber-attacks

6. tools grilailyno designed by the NSA

7. Microsoft dnesrtipe Brad Smith

8. stealing mislesis from the USA

9. This attack sidervop yet another example

10. WannaCry has dftceaef 200,000 computers

11. Many ptrsoaoine were cancelled

12. xepsetr warned people to back up their files

Role Play

Role A – Documents
You think documents are the most important things to back up on a computer. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): photos, music or videos.

Role B – Photos
You think photos are the most important things to back up on a computer. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): documents, music or videos.

Role C – Music
You think music is the most important thing to back up on a computer. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): photos, documents or videos.

Role D – Videos
You think videos are the most important things to back up on a computer. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): photos, music or documents.

Speaking – Data

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important computer data at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- music
- videos
- homework
- e-books
- applications
- documents
- photos
- games

Answers – Synonym Match

1. b	2. d	3. j	4. g	5. f
6. c	7. i	8. a	9. e	10. h

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.