

## 6.1: Introduction

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As computers and other digital devices have become essential to business and commerce, they have also increasingly become high-value attack targets. For example, in 2017 credit bureau Equifax suffered a major breach compromising the personal information of over 140 million people, resulting in massive fines and loss of consumer trust (FTC, 2019). This example demonstrates why effective information security is critical for any organization. Data breaches, malware infections, and cyber attacks can have cascading negative consequences, including lost revenue, decreased customer trust, high recovery costs, and damage to brand reputation and market value.

For a company or an individual to use a computing device with confidence, they must first be assured that the device is not compromised in any way and that all communications will be secure. For example, individuals can fall victim to identity theft if their personal information is obtained by hackers. This chapter reviews the fundamental concepts of information systems security and discusses some of the measures that can be taken to mitigate security threats. The chapter begins with an overview focusing on how organizations can stay secure; several different measures that a company can take to protect its data, systems, and IT infrastructure. Technical details will be avoided, instead emphasizing real-world impacts and developing a culture and policies for good security governance. Finally, you will review a list of security precautions individuals can take to secure their computing environment.

### 6.1.1: References:

FTC (2019). Equifax to Pay \$575 Million as Part of Settlement with FTC, CFPB, and States Related to 2017 Data Breach. Retrieved from <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2019/07/equifax-pay-575-million-part-settlement-ftc-cfpb-states-related>

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