Blog Entry

(Zhang, et al., 2017) starts off by pointing out how smartphones' popularity and usage is rapidly increasing worldwide especially in China, the different information risks that comes from using smartphones, like malwares, phishing, theft/loss, etc., and the various security technologies that can be applied to mitigate these risks.

To examine the information security behaviors of smartphone users in China, (Zhang, et al., 2017) performed a study in China in April 2016. In this study, surveys were used to collect data from 1,000 Chinese smartphone users who were invited through online platforms like WeChat.
Afterwards, their responses were analysed so as to understand their behaviours and attitudes towards information security.

The several discoveries that were found from the study were as follows:

- 56% of users do not examine the requests, instead they blindly accept permissions to applications to access data while 19% of users always check.
- 59% of users download applications from unknown sources.
- 52% have antiviruses and the rest don't.
- Male smartphone users have more riskier behaviours than the females. E.g., most men grant permissions to applications to access their personal data.
- Less educated users hardly back-up their information
- Most working class rarely erase all their information from a smartphone when they change their smartphones.

- The majority of Chinese smartphone users' behaviours are enabling information risks, for example, how 34% did not log-out from their applications, 45% sometimes did while the 21% always logs-out or how many users did not use secure passwords, etc.
- Users with higher levels of education and income were more likely to have better information security behaviours.
- Most Chinese smartphone users did not have much knowledge on information security.

According to the study, the government and organizations should pay more attention to offering education, trainings and awareness-raising activities so as to enable smartphone users understand the importance of information security and how they can protect themselves.
Moreover, the findings provided a few recommendations on how users can practice information security e.g., only accessing information from trusted sources, disabling GPS, Bluetooth or Wi-Fi when it is inactive, etc.

(Zhang et al., 2017) also suggests that smartphone manufacturers and app developers can help promote information security by offering enhanced security features and teaching their users how to apply them.

The study contributes to a better understanding of information security behaviors among Chinese smartphone users. (Zhang, et al., 2017) concludes by stating that the findings of this study cannot be generalized to China's entire population due to the study's small number of participants. As a result, additional studies could be done in the future so as

to have a better understanding of the information security behaviors of Chinese smartphone users.

References

Zhang, X. J., Li, Z. & Deng, H., 2017. Information security behaviors of smartphone users in China: an empirical analysis. *The Electronic Library,* 35(6), pp. 1177-1190.