

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Tennya Boone

CYSE 201S: Cybersecurity and the Social Sciences

Instructor Name: Diwakar Yalpi

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What is Cybersecurity Awareness?



Many cybersecurity incidents are caused by human actions and errors (Schaltegger et al., 2025).

01

Understanding how to stay safe online

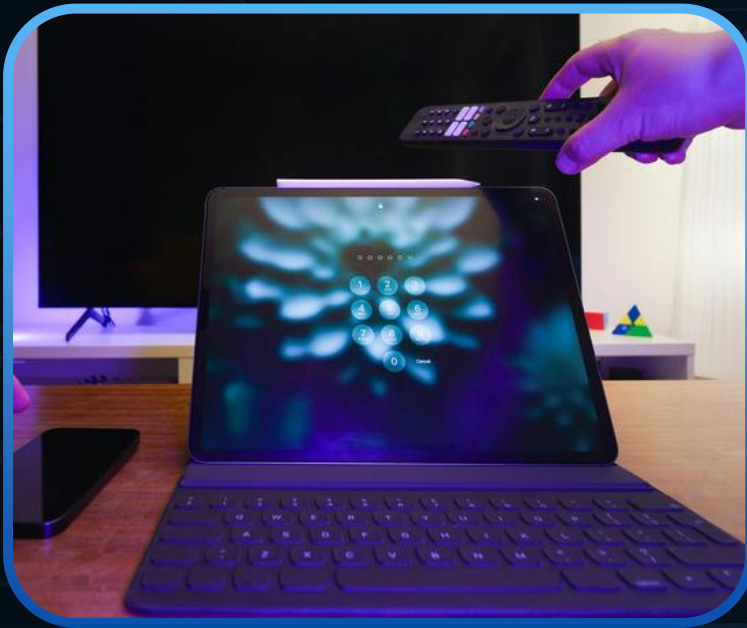
02

Recognizing cyber threats

03

Making informed decisions when using technology

Why It Matters Today



Increased internet
and technology use



More personal data
being stored online



Rising cyber threats

Phishing is one of the most common cyberattacks (Alqahtani, 2022)
Human mistakes like clicking malicious links lead to attacks (Schaltegger et al., 2025)

Common Types of Cyber Threats

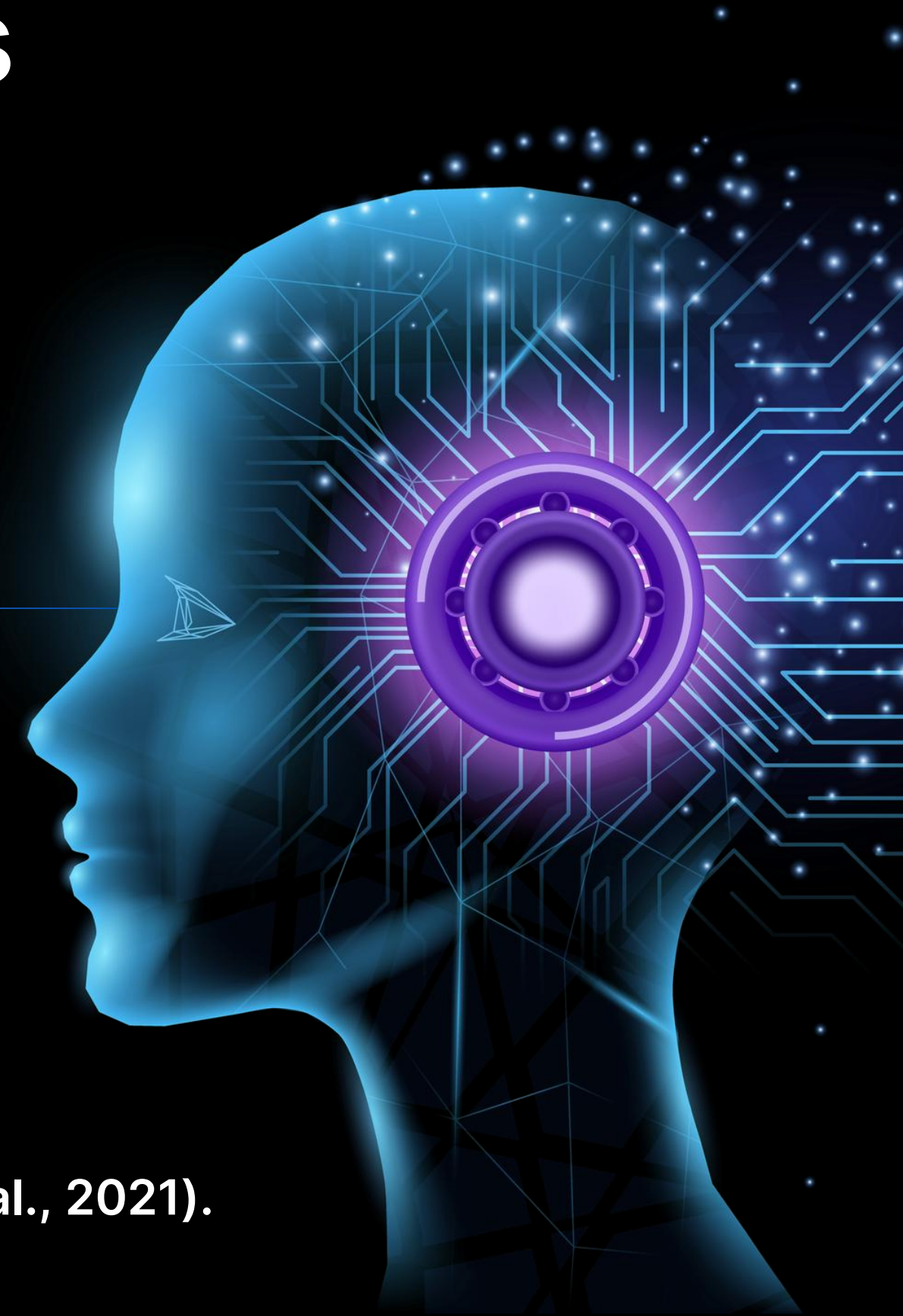
1. Phishing Emails or Text Messages

2. Weak Passwords

3. Fake Websites

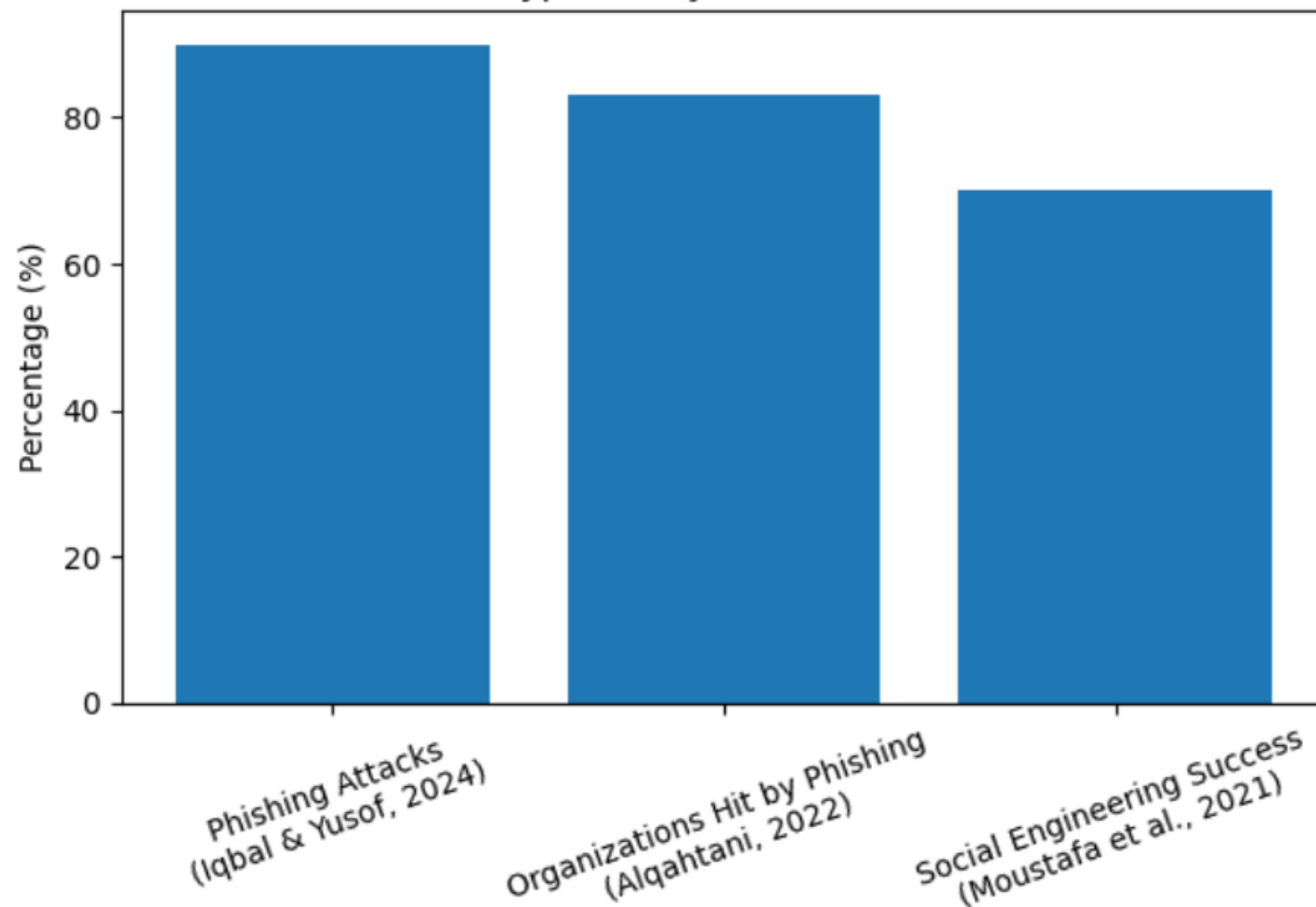
4. Public Wi-fi Risks

Phishing tricks users into giving personal information (Alqahtani, 2022).
Human errors like clicking links and sharing passwords increase risk (Moustafa et al., 2021).



Common Types of Cyber Threats

Common Types of Cyber Threats (Statistics)



This graph shows that phishing and social engineering are the most common cyber threats explored through the found research and they are highly successful because they target human behaviors.

Phishing Attacks – 90% (Iqbal & Yusof, 2024)

Organizations Hit by Phishing – 83%

(Alqahtani, 2022)

Social Engineering Success – 70% (Moustafa et al., 2021)

Social Science Connection

CYBERSECURITY INVOLVES:

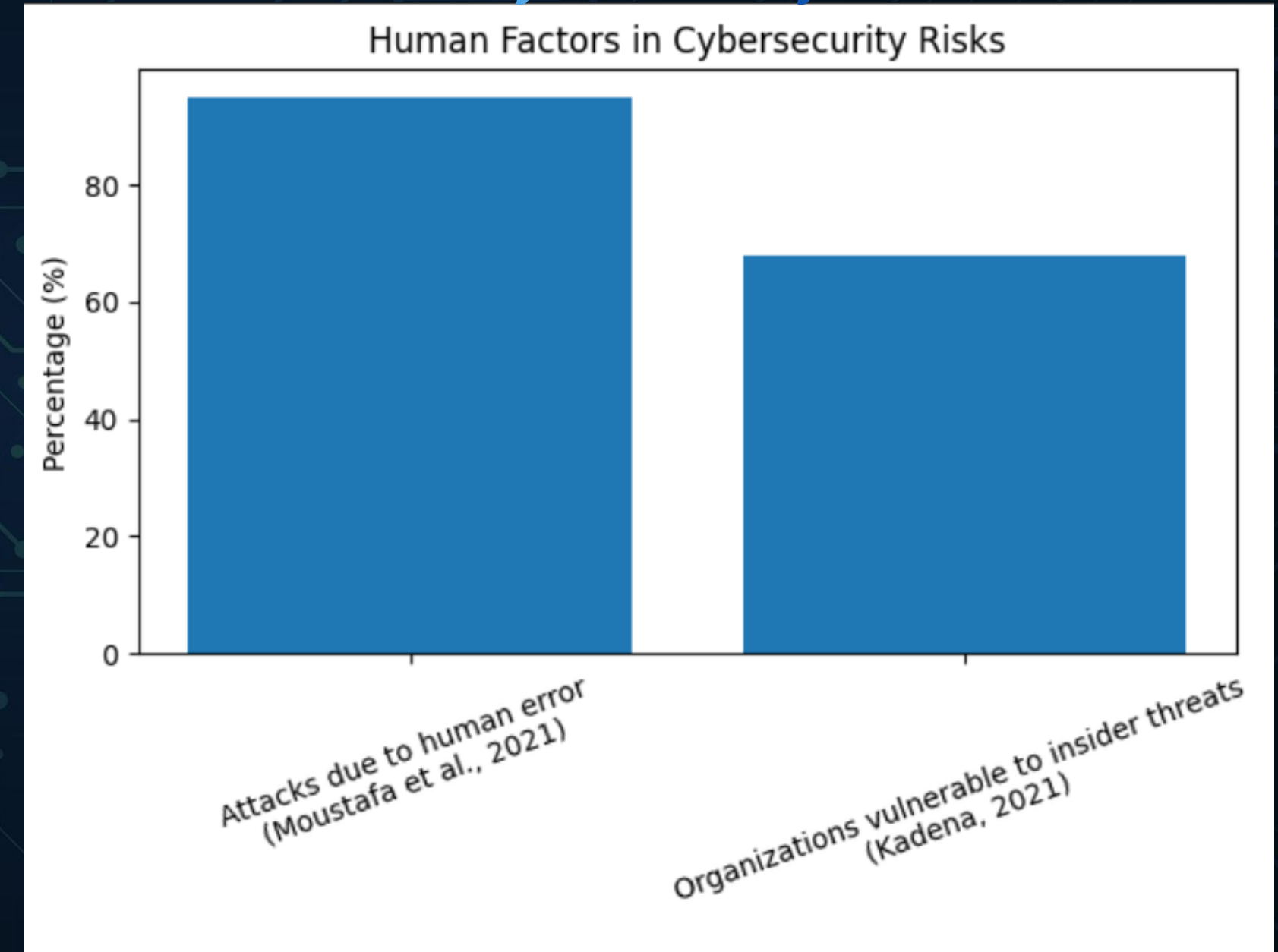
> Psychology

> Behavior

> Social influences

Cybersecurity risks are driven by psychological and social factors, showing that human behavior is a key factor when it comes to both vulnerability and protection.

Impact of Human Behavior on Cybersecurity



95% of cyberattacks are due to human error (Moustafa et al., 2021) and 68% of organizations feel vulnerable to insider threats (human factor) (Kadena, 2021).

Real World Examples

01

Case 1: Phishing Email Scam

A user receives a fake email from someone pretending to be Amazon that is asking them to verify their account. They proceed with clicking the link and enter their login information, which is then stolen by the hackers.

Impacts



Account takeover



Financial loss



Stolen personal data

02

Case 2: Ransomware Attack

An employee clicks a suspicious email attachment, which then installs ransomware that locks important company files. Then the hackers demand payment to restore access to the company.

Impacts



Business shutdown



Data loss



Financial loss

How to Improve Cybersecurity Awareness

1. Use Strong Passwords

2. Enable 2-Factor Authentication

3. Always Avoid Suspicious Links

4. Participate in Accessible Cybersecurity Training

Cybersecurity training reduces phishing vulnerability (Iqbal & Yusof, 2024)
Awareness and education improve security behavior (Alqahtani, 2022)



Conclusion

01

Cybersecurity awareness
is essential in todays day
and age

02

Based on research, human
behavior is the biggest risk factor

03

Education and training help
improve security

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