The Impact of Computer Crime on Corporate Profitability in Nigeria (A Study of GT-Bank PLC)

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Abstract: This research work critically examines the impact of computer crime on the profitability of corporate organization in Nigeria, using Guarantee Trust Bank (GTB) Aba – Owerri Road, Aba as the study. Both primary data and secondary data were used, the primary data were sourced using a well structured questionnaire which were ministered to the target audience secondary data were source from textbooks, journals, periodicals etc. two level of data analysis were made; description (analysis was done using simple percentage while the inferential analysis was done using chi-square test. It was found out that a computer crime free organization will maximize profitability of such organization. It was concluded the compute crime should be eliminated or reduce to the barest level in every organization. It was therefore require for companies to adopt a constant and realizable quantities approach toward eliminating computer crime in organizations in Nigeria.

Keywords: Computer crime, corporate profitability

INTRODUCTION

Computer crime otherwise known as Electronic or Cyber crime generally refers to the criminal activities done using the computer system or Network. Although computer crime most a time is restricted to describing criminal activities in which the computer or network is a necessary part of the crime, these terms are also sometime used to include traditional crime committed with the aid of the computer such as fraud, theft, blackmail, forgery and embezzlement.

Many countries all over the globe face the menace of criminal activities committed using the computer or network, committed using the computer or network, people are tracking into the database of an organization if not strongly secured with a strong pass ward difficult to be backed including corporate organization in Nigeria.
Computer crime can be broadly defined as a criminal activity involving an involving an information technology infrastructure which an illegal access (unauthorized access), illegal interception (by technical means to access non-public data transmission form or within the computer system).

Data interference, unauthorized access, damaging, detection, deterioration,

alteration or suppression of computer data can be a threatening effect and damages of not properly check. However, computer saves a lot of time been wasted by manual system to verify claims for payment and cash withdrawal in banks.

These encourages and at the same time increase customers confidence in the bank and made available useful time in verifying procedure for more banking operations. Developing countries like Nigeria sequel to the numerous advantages of the computer system, the banking sector and all other sector in the economy adopt the idea of making every transaction computerized; this reduce in work load and time saving necessitates the adoption of the system in most sectors.

The level of corruption in the society makes the numerous advantage of the system to have a big loophole because of crimes committed using the computer system. Additionally, GT-Bank plc has been one of the new generation but highly reliable banks in Nigeria because of their guaranteed service to their customers. They will among others find this research work of great help, in that it focuses on the impact of computer crime in the profitability of corporate organization. If the measures pointed out will be strictly applied, it will go a long way in checking and minimizing criminal activities and the rates of computer crime will be reduced in banks.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY
Introduction of computer in the banking industries has helped in revolutionizing the banking sector. Cyber crime is one of the words frequently used by individuals in our contemporary society. The term "cyber" is a prefix used to describe an idea as a part of the computer and information age. Crime can be described as any activity that contravenes legal procedures, mostly performed by individuals with a criminal motive. Cyber crime also known as computer crime is seen as offence that are committed against individuals or groups of individual with a criminal motive to intentionally harm the reputation of the victim or cause physical or mental harm to the victim directly or indirectly through a modern telecommunication network such as internet and mobile phones. Such crime may threaten a nation's security and financial health.

The internet has offered a lot of platform for useful research purposes; however, computer crime is a world-wide problem that is costing companies billions of naira. According to crime research.org, as early as 2003, guarantee trust bank was leading the banking sector in the percentage of cyber attack at 35.4%. Banks with high rate of cyber crime started as a result of many hackers and other cyber criminals flourishing in countries with few internet crime laws while attacking richer countries through their computer because, it lacks rules and codes of a central authority which governs it as such internet has no global demarcation (as remarked by guidance and fortieth 2003). In Nigeria, cyber crimes are performed by people of all ages, ranging from young to old, but in most cases, the young. Several youth engages in cyber crime with the aim of emerging as the best hackers or as a profit making venture since the tools for hacking in our modern world has become affordable by many.

Records scan it made possible as a result of the large number of young people who now see cyber crime as a source of livelihood. This study tends to look at cyber crime, its impact, and effects and suggest ways to combat such crimes as it affects guarantee trust bank and other establishment as well.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This research work generally aims at evaluating the impact of computer crime on the profitability of corporate organization in Nigeria. Specifically, the study aims to achieve the following:

- Evaluating the effectiveness of computer security in Banks.
- Determine the possible ways of tracking hackers and also preventing hackers from the system.
- Evaluate the impact of profit dilution in the organization.
- Determine whether the system database is strongly secured, also the possible strong data password determination.
- Ensuring and evaluating the internal control of the organization.
- Evaluating the viability of antivirus used by the organization.

These and many more are problems identified to be tackled in the process of this research work and possible solutions given.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

As digital technology advanced over the past 50 years with a huge unprecedented advancement in history, government, business and people around the globe have been affected immeasurably. The already enormous and exponentially, fraud capacities for electronic storage, transmission and rapid manipulation of binary date changed the landscape virtually overnight (according to Baletrack 2009).

Galaner (2000); he described computer as a device that accept information of one kind or another, stores it according to a carefully prepared set of rules or procedures, and then dump it out in a new form. But the fear that computer will violate the right to piracy and results in a society were human being no longer think capacity for themselves is certain.

According to Charles (2013); computer is seen as an electronic device that accepts data as an input, process the data to give accurate output called information. Dimoji (2014); defined computer crime as unethical behavior exhibited by people using the facilities provided by information technology environment to defraud the company. Computer crime also known as cyber crime according to Nwosu (2012) refers to the criminal activity where computers or network is the source, target or place where the crime is committed. These categories are not exclusive; any activity can be classified as computer crime if it is done using any information technology facility to cause harm. There are also hacking activities directed towards individuals, families and industries such as banks, organized by group within the network rendering services or signal.

According to Jones (2000) on 3rd August 2000, federal prosecutors charge mafian boys with 54 count charge for illegally assessing the computing computer plus a total of 10 counts of mischief of data for his attack on Amazonlom. Dell computer outlaw and yahoo mafian boys have also attacked other website, but, prosecutors decided that a total of 66 counts were enough.

About 50 computer at Stanford University and also computers at the University of California at Barbara were amongst the zombie computer sending pins in DOS attack.

In early March, 2011, a company named Honeywell was hacked by computer fraudsters and important document relating to the company was copied and sent to another company who needed such information to compete with the company favorably.

TYPES OF COMPUTER CRIME
According to Dimoji (2014); there are primarily many types of computer crimes in practice by fraudsters, multiple crimes that are concurrent, or, lesser offences that can occur during any given criminal transaction resulting in an overlap between the classification which includes the following:
- Cyber crime
- Malware and Malicious code
- Denial of service attacks
- Computing virus
- Information warfare
- Cyber stalking
- Fraud and identity theft
- Fishing
- Virtual crime

According to Newsweek, government officials and security specialists have documented a significant increase in internet probes and server scans since early 2001 because of the crimes committed using the computer system.

According to Oduveme H. (1998), banking regulation in Nigeria and analytical perspective describes cyber terrorist as someone who intermediates companies, governments to advance his/her political or social objective by launching computer based attack against computer network and the information stored in them.

MANIFESTATION FORMS AND WAYS OF COMMITING CYBER CRIME
The following are ways and forms computer crime can be committed according to Dimoji (2014):
- Computer trickery
- Financial theft and misuse
- Forgery of data and document
- Making and use of computer virus
- Computer sabotage and espionage
- Hacker ship

MAKING USE OF COMPUTER VIRUS:
Computer virus are software programs, which are made by indispensable individuals to cause damage to many computers connected in networks, for example, the internet, and are considered one of the most powerful weapons of cyber criminals. Basic characteristics of these programs are:
iv. They copy themselves into each computer they come in contact with.
v. They are noticeable; i.e. users often do not know about them especially if a program for virus scanning is not installed.

vi.   They automatically do some commands like detecting useful data out of the victim's computer, or sending data to other locations in the network, about which he owner of the computer does not know.

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