Tuesday English News Report:

Broadcast Date: 23rd May, 2017

It's time for all of us to learn from cyber attacks on FedEx and NHS, and become computer literate ourselves

A **massive** outbreak of **malicious** software has taken down more than 200,000 computers across the globe since May 12, and held them for **ransom**.

Wanna Cry is a type of ransomware that exploits **loopholes** in Windows systems. It **paralyses** an infected computer by encrypting all the files and forcing you to pay money if you want your files to be restored.

A large number of computer systems are reported to have been attacked, including those of delivery giant FedEx, Britain's National Health Service, and Germany's train stations.

In the midst of the attacks, we were very fortunate to have cybersecurity professionals analyse the **intrusions** and work on eliminating the ransomware. It turns out that the attacks could have been easily avoided by installing a Windows update released in March earlier this year.

Many shared this information online but others failed to take action because of a lack of basic computer knowledge.

We must learn from these **outrageous** attacks and reflect upon our understanding of computer security.

It's concerning to see so many computers users struggle when it comes to cybersecurity. Not every user has to be a cybersecurity expert, but everyone should learn some basics of how to protect their data – and, at the very least, update their systems from time to time.

Many of us who grew up in the technological era started using computers and devices very early on. Yet only a few of us are capable of using information technology (IT) safely and wisely.

The Hong Kong government is devoted to pushing technological development, but it has overlooked the importance of nurturing IT talents; building a Cyberport, for example, does not guarantee a **batch** of IT professionals.

The government needs to catch up with reality, stop creating **white elephant** projects, and instead develop the existing IT education curriculum which is currently inadequate.

Computer literacy is an essential skill which everyone should acquire. As technology continues to **intertwine** with our lives, learning computer skills is more important than ever. We must equip ourselves with safety measures in both the real world, and the virtual one.

Adapted from an article in the Young Post dated May 18th, 2017

Questions to think about:

- What have you learnt from this article?
- Do you agree with the writer's viewpoint?
- Why is cybersecurity such a concern for individuals, companies or governments?
- Should we be concerned with governments and the way they use technology? What high profile cases do you know of which raised concern with 'spying'?

I: Vocabulary and understanding meaning: *Match the meaning and/or synonym (words with a similar or the same meaning) to the words which have been highlighted in bold in the article.*

Column A: Word from text	Letter	Column B: Meaning or synonym
1. massive (adj)		A: group, bunch, number of, for example, people
2. malicious (adj)		B: connect or link with closely, interlocked, interconnected
3. ransom (n)		C: very big/huge
4. loophole(s) (n)		D: something that is useless, usually something which has cost a lot of money and keeps costing money
5. paralyse (v)		E: a sum of money demanded for the release of a person or in this case access to files on your computer
6. intrusion(s) (n)		F: a hole or a gap or a way to get out of something problematic/escape from something problematic
7. outrageous (adj)		G: intending to or intended to do harm, evil intentioned,
8. batch (n)		H: unwelcome or uninvited interference with something
9. white elephant (n)		I:shockingly bad/unbelievably bad
10. intertwine		J: make powerless, disable, stop something from working

II: Usage of vocabulary: *Choose the most appropriate word from the table above to fill in the missing words of the sentences below making sure your answers are grammatically correct.*

1. The project was a _____ from the start. Despite the government sinking more and more money into it, there is no sign of a turn around and the project continues to lose money.

2. The toy company had to re-call a _____ of dolls produced and sold because of problems with them. This certain group of dolls were not working as they were supposed to.

3. Because of a _____ in the alarm system, the bank robbers were able to break into the bank. Some mistake had been made when the system was set up.

4. The kidnappers demanded a large _____ for the daughter of one of the richest men in the world.

5. The city (a) _____ by a (b) _____ snow storm. Schools, businesses and the transportation system were brought to a standstill. The residents had never witnessed such a big blizzard before.

6. What he said was _____! It should not be taken seriously at all.

7. The boy and girl sat close together with their fingers _____ in each other's. They were also looking into each other's eyes with love.

8. The _____ witch took pleasure in hurting people. She enjoyed being evil.

9. What an _____ into my privacy! How dare he look at my emails!

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