Professor Ryan Riley: Security

Al Jazeera's Journalists

1. **What did attackers break into?**
   In 2020, spyware sold by a Israeli firm hacked and targeted several journalists working at Al Jazeera.
2. **How did the attackers break into it?**
   Hackers, based in other countries, illegally obtained private information, which they used to sabotage the journalists. Additionally, the hackers were given access to the device's location and camera through the 'zero-click technique.'
3. **Who was impacted?**
   Over the course of a year, three dozen journalists received death threats.
4. **How was it investigated?**
   The targeted journalists gave their devices to Citizen Lab, who tracked the spyware.

Source: Al Jazeera: Al Jazeera journalists hacked using Israeli firm's spyware

QNB Breach

1. **What did attackers break into?**
   In 2016, hackers broke into Qatar National Bank's database, which stores bank details of its clients.
2. **How did the attackers break into it?**
   The hackers leaked folders that contain sensitive details of high-profile officials.
3. **Who was impacted?**
   Allegedly, those among impacted were the royal family and journalists. However, the bank stated that none of their clients had experienced any financial harm and that their system was safe.
4. **How was it investigated?**
   The bank stated that they would not respond to rumors on social media. However, an investigation was later launched.

Source: MEED: Hackers target Qatar National Bank and SECEON: QNB Breach Explained