CIS 5480 Spring 2025 - Reading Assignment

You will submit this assignment by uploading it to Gradescope. You do not need to print out this document and put your answers on it, and may instead put your answers on their own dedicated pages, just be sure you properly indicate which question is being answered on all parts of the page. You are allowed to use up to two (2) late tokens on this assignment.

You may write or type your answers. If you choose to handwrite, please ensure your handwriting is legible and the document is scanned properly.

Please read the two (2) articles that we have trimmed down and can be found here:
https://www.seas.upenn.edu/~cis5480/25sp/projects/society/lenovo_article.pdf and answer the following questions in 3-4 sentences. You will not be penalized for going over the sentence limit. You will be graded on the thoughtfulness behind your answers, so please explain your reasoning.

Question 1 (5 points)
Did Lenovo benefit from Superfish? If so, what benefits? What drawbacks did Lenovo experience after integrating Superfish into the operating system?

Question 2 (10 points)
In the Superfish settlement, it was revealed that the X button to dismiss the installer window was actually interpreted as an opt-in button to install Superfish. Later, Microsoft would use the same design when encouraging users to upgrade to Windows 10. Do you think this was a good idea from the perspective of Lenovo/Windows? Why or why not?

Question 3 (15 points)
In this story, who should be responsible for ensuring the security of the Lenovo operating system and why? Should it be a combination of entities? What would accountability look like?

Some possible entities could include: Superfish developers, Superfish admin involved in the deal, Lenovo developers, Lenovo admin involved in the deal, government regulators, and/or consumers.

Please explain your reasoning.

Question 4 (10 points)
Have you encountered other stories that connect or relate to the concepts mentioned in this article? They don't have to be directly about bloatware or security risks or case settlements. Feel free to share them below. If not, what did you find interesting or surprising from this article?