Data Breaches

In This Module

- What are data breaches?
- How and why do data breaches occur?
- How can we prevent data breaches?
- What should we do if we are part of a data breach?

Data Breach

A data breach is a security violation where sensitive, private, or personal information is copied or stolen by an unauthorized user, like a hacker

How Do Data Breaches Happen?

Nefarious actors increasingly target datasets stored by:

- Financial institutions
- Stores
- Hospitals
- Schools
- Workplaces
- ...and more

These actors are looking for personal information they can sell on the darkweb or use to run scams and make money.

Why Do Data Breaches Happen?

Nefarious actors tend to look for information like:

- Passwords
- Personal details like your address
- Emails
- Social security numbers
- Financial information, like credit card numbers or bank account information

This information can be sold for money. It can also be used to run phishing schemes, commit identity theft, or to otherwise defraud people.

Dealing With Data Breaches

Data breaches are increasingly common, unfortunately, since they can be quite lucrative for hackers.

Do not feel bad if you are part of a data breach. They can and do happen to anyone and everyone!

There are things you to do to handle a data breach, if it happens to you. There are also steps you can take to help secure and protect your data.

Discussion

Data breaches are commonly in the news now. What are some examples that come to mind for you?

If you feel comfortable sharing, have you ever been part of a data breach? What did you learn from the experience that you'd like to share with others?

Examples of Data Breaches

Yahoo has the unfortunate distinction of being part of the worst data breach in history. It involved 3 billion accounts in 2013!

Other major data breaches include:

- Alibaba - 1.1 billion piece of data in November 2019
- LinkedIn - 700 million users in June 2021
- Weibo - 538 million accounts in March 2020
- Facebook - 533 million users in April 2019

Source: https://www.csoonline.com/article/2130877/the-biggest-data-breaches-of-the-21st-century.html

Shoring Up Against Data Breaches

Strategies you can use to protect your data include:

- Practice good password hygiene
  - Using strong passwords
  - Consider a password managers
  - Set up multi-factor authentication

Shoring Up Against Data Breaches

Strategies you can use to protect your data include:

- Practice data minimization
  - Be cautious with where you give out your personal information
  - Be aware of when and where you create accounts
- Keep an eye on your accounts
  - Watch out for suspicious activity

Activity

Use the handout provided to reflect on your current level of digital safety, and make plans to shore up your data

How To Know If You've Been Impacted

You'll know if your data may have been affected by a data breach if:

- You receive information from the place where the data breach occurred*
- The news reports that a service you use has been the victim of a breach
- You can find your account info on https://haveibeenpwned.com/

*Phishing schemes can use this tactic to steal your account information, so check to be sure that this message is legitimate!

How To Know If You've Been Impacted

Suspicious account activity is another clue that your data may have been impacted:

You may see:

- Strange activity or logins on your accounts
- Suspicious items in your credit report
- An uptick in phishing scams sent your way

What To Do If You're Part of a Data Breach

In the immediate aftermath:

- Determine what information was stolen
- Change your password
- Close accounts as needed, particularly compromised credit card accounts
- Notify friends or contacts if your email or social media was hacked

What To Do If You're Part of a Data Breach

Over time:

- Watch out for phishing schemes
- Implement stronger password hygiene
- Implement multi-factor authentication
- Pay attention to credit reports and your account activity

Takeaways

- Data breaches can be alarming and stressful
- They can happen to anyone
- There are steps you can take to secure your information and to better protect your accounts in the future
- Remember to be proactive about securing and monitoring your accounts for suspicious activity or notifications of a breach

Resources

“What to Do After A Data Breach” in *Consumer Reports* (link)

“What to Do After 5 Types of Data Breaches” on norton.com (link)

“What to Do After Getting a Data Breach Notification” in *Wire Cutter* from *New York Times* (link)

Questions?

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