

CYBERSECURITY

YEAR IN REVIEW

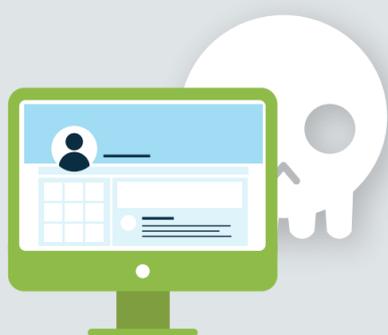
Looking back at 2018, there were dozens of data breaches that made headlines. Millions of people around the world were left vulnerable, as hackers accessed and stole their personal information. Here are a few of the cybersecurity stories that unfolded last year.

NOVEMBER 2018

MARRIOTT STARWOOD HOTELS

Marriott International disclosed the breach of the guest reservations database of its Starwood division in November.

As many as 500 million guests were affected, and it's believed that there was unauthorized access to the Starwood network since 2014. For roughly 372 million guests, the attacker was able to access personally identifiable information including a combination of name, address, phone number, email address, passport number, account information, date of birth, and gender. In some cases, the compromised records also included encrypted credit card information.



SEPTEMBER 2018

FACEBOOK

In September, Facebook announced that attackers exploited a vulnerability in its code that impacted its “View As” feature, which impacted as many as 30 million accounts.

The attackers were able to steal access tokens — digital keys that allow users to stay logged in whether or not they're actively using the app — to take over accounts. Facebook reset the access tokens to the affected accounts, as well as to 40 million others, as a precautionary measure. The incident is under review with Ireland's Data Protection Commission to assess the damages — meaning Facebook could see up to \$1.6 billion in fines if it breached GDPR requirements.



Facebook also made headlines when it was uncovered that Cambridge Analytica improperly accessed and used voter data to create target ads in support of President Trump's presidential campaign.

MARCH 2018

GOOGLE+

Through Google's Project Strobe, the company discovered a massive vulnerability within the Google+ People API in March.



When users gave third-party apps access to the information in their profiles — and their friends' profiles — this vulnerability gave up both public and private profile information. This issue affected 500,000 user accounts before the bug was patched. In October, Google announced that it is shutting down the consumer version of Google+, citing “low usage and engagement.” The company is working to focus on developing a secure corporate social network for its enterprise customers.

SEPTEMBER 2018

BRITISH AIRWAYS

British Airways announced a data breach in September that affected the customer information of approximately 380,000 booking transactions made between August 21 and September 5.

Personally identifiable information including names, addresses, email addresses, and credit card payment details — including expiration dates and CVV codes — were compromised. The attack has been attributed to hacking group Magecart, known for web-based credit card skimming, which used a cross-site scripting (XSS) attack to

inject malicious code into a vulnerable JavaScript component connected to British Airways' baggage claim information page. The 22 lines of code injected into the component took the data customers entered into a payment form and sent it to the attacker's server. The attack also impacted its Android mobile users.



How Secure Is Your Software?

The State of Software Security Report Vol. 9 shows that 49% of apps contain XSS vulnerabilities. This allows attackers to inject client-side scripts into an app, potentially bypassing security controls in the process.

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