

The Worst Cybersecurity Breaches Of All Time



Cybersecurity breaches have become startlingly common. With so many attacks, some of these stories wind up as white noise, but there's always a breach that stands above the rest and commands attention. Here are some of the most damaging and infamous cybersecurity breaches in history.

The Attacks

When looking for the worst cybersecurity breaches, it's tempting to rate them by the dollar amounts alone. However, sometimes it's the loss of information that does the worst damage of all.

Yahoo

No list of the worst cybersecurity breaches would be complete without mentioning Yahoo. When Yahoo was breached in 2013, it compromised not millions, but [billions of accounts](#). That jaw-dropping figure makes it one of the worst breaches of all time.

J.P. Morgan Chase

Financial data is among the most valuable information that hackers can get their hands on. The breach of [J.P. Morgan Chase](#) in 2014 represents one of the largest losses of customer data from a finance firm in United States history.

Heartland Payment Systems

Once upon a time, Heartland Payment Systems was one of the biggest payment processing firms, but no more. In 2008 the company suffered a breach that resulted in the theft of over 100 million customer records.

Equifax

Anyone with a credit report has a high chance of being affected by the Equifax breach of 2017 when [143 million records](#) were compromised. Vast amounts of sensitive information was stolen including birthdays, addresses, and social security numbers.

United States Military

Not only are businesses at risk, but the U.S. military as well. Nearly [70 million records](#) were stolen, all belonging to veterans. As of 2009 when the attack occurred it was the largest single theft of personally identifiable information on government personnel to date.

Conclusion

In conclusion, cybersecurity is of utmost importance for any major organization in business today. Failure to keep up with cybercriminals is as you've discovered, potentially disastrous. The projected cost of international cyber-attacks in 2019 is [\\$2.1 trillion dollars](#).

In a study conducted by Lloyd's of London, the annual cost of cybercrime is estimated to be [\\$400 billion](#). The key is to never settle. As an organization, you should always be improving on cybersecurity. The dangers are very real and can't be ignored.

Businesses today should be investing in robust firewalls, anti-malware, and cybersecurity professionals. The bottom line is, cybersecurity isn't an option, it's a necessity.

Image: Pixabay