Adobe Breach

Introduction

Every day, millions of people use debit and credit cards as a form of payment. Each time a card is swiped or used on-line, the opportunity exists for hackers to breach security barriers and steal personal and financial information. This information is then sold on the black market and used for fraudulent activity, (unauthorized transactions).

The recent data breach at Adobe that exposed user account information and prompted a flurry of password reset emails impacted at least 38 million users, the company now says. It also appears that the already massive source code leak at Adobe is broadening to include the company's Photoshop family of graphical design products

What happened?

The breach occurred when hackers raided a backup server on which they found, and subsequently published, a 3.8GB file containing 152 million usernames and poorly-encrypted passwords, plus customers' credit card numbers.

Adobe initially reported the breach affecting three million users and later increased that figure to 38 million.
The company knew its security practices at the time were poor since it used the same encryption key for all passwords.

The company said the attackers accessed customer IDs and encrypted passwords on its systems. The attackers also removed certain customer information, including names, encrypted credit or debit card numbers, card expiration dates and other information relating to customer orders, said Brad Arkin, chief security officer at Adobe.

Impact

People who were using same password which they are using for other accounts related to banking, social media, etc. they might be at risk. If things like that happens then it may be lead to anything like fraud banking transactions, illegal activities through social media on the name of someone else or may be damaging your social and personal life.

What went wrong- probably the 16 characters-Passwords cannot protect us anymore

- Adobe did not match their password protection up to industry standards because of which hackers were able to exploit that. Also in case of the stored passwords; the users'password hints were in clear text.
- Hints used were really weak and easily exploitable by the third parties
- Hints made the discovery of passwords easy not only for the Adobe account but for the others websites as well.
- Usage of Paraphrases or long passwords makes it difficult for the hackers to hack.
- Recycling of the same passwords for multiple places should not be practice for avoiding the hacking of the accounts.

The most popular password, chosen by almost two million Adobe users, is **123456**. Other password choices are equally poor: **password**, **123456789**, **qwerty**, etc…

"Consumers who entrust a company with their personal data should have that trust respected."