Part 2

Cipher: shift each letter back by 4, A wrapping back to W

I love cryptography = E hkra ynlpkcnwldu

Part 3

Equifax, one of the three big consumer credit reporting agencies in the US, was breached in September 2017. The personal data of 148 million people, including names, addresses, phone numbers, dates of birth, social security numbers, and driver’s license numbers were compromised.

Hackers used a third-party software exploit that had yet to be updated by Equifax to gain access to the company’s internal servers. The hackers extracted internal credentials for Equifax employees, allowing them to search the database disguised as authorized users. They also used encryption to mask their searches and extracted information into small temporary archives which they transferred off Equifax servers and then removed. Poor data hygiene, permissive access controls, and open network architecture have been cited as factors that allowed the breach to occur.

The US Department of Justice indicted members of China’s military for the hack, but the Chinese government denied any involvement in the hack. Since the breach, Equifax has improved processes for patching, focused more on vulnerability and certificate management, and strengthened access controls protections. It has also implemented improved detection and response programs to handle potential problems.