

Julian Garcia

CSE 489

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Two articles on Cybersecurity

1. *T-Mobile Hacker Who Stole Data on 50 Million Customers: 'Their Security Is Awful'*

Article Link:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2021/8/26/us-hacker-21-details-how-he-breached-t-mobile-in-wsj-interview>

This article talks about the man behind the recent T-Mobile hack, as he came forward and did an interview with the Wall Street Journal (chose not to link that article as it is pay-walled). He talks about how a single unsecured router was the only avenue he (and possibly others) used to procure the data from the hack. He seemed almost shocked at first, apparently it only took him (or them) a week to procure all the sensitive data from the hack, and he calls T-Mobile's security awful, quite understandably.

2. *Schools, colleges brace for cyberattacks as students return*

Article Link:

<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/568821-schools-colleges-brace-for-cyberattacks-as-students-return>

This article talks about the recent rise of cyberattacks schools and colleges have been suffering through. With online learning becoming much more necessary, and with school security systems generally having more relaxed and outdated security practices, they become prime targets for cyber-attacks. The article talks about how student's info in particular is a great target for a cyber-attack, since getting their information easily while they're young could be a

solid investment for a hacker to exploit years down the line. Hackers have even gone as far as to profile faculty, figuring out who important members are, such as department chairs, specifically so they can impersonate them and phish more data out of unsuspecting victims. They've been very successful in such attacks specifically because many faculty members (especially in K-12 schools) simply aren't prepared for such attacks or are simply unaware of such malevolent practices. The article raises the point that there's a dire need for legislation and reform to protect the personal data of faculty and students.

Exam Questions:

1. What are some implications/uses of the theft of students' personal info?

Answer: Considering that the data is usually taken as an 'investment'. Taking a young student's personal info provides a prime opportunity for identity theft later on in their life, once they've accumulated valuable resources associated with their name, they could use their info to try and access personal accounts such as a checkings account, or even exploit the use of their identity to pull out a credit card in their name.

2. (Open ended) Should T-Mobile face any recourse for letting their user's data be stolen?

Should they be punished if any of their security practices weren't up to proper standards? Explain your reasoning.