Information Security(CSE-411)

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HCA confirms breach after hacker steals data of 11 million patients

HCA Healthcare disclosed a data breach impacting an estimated 11 million patients who received care at one of its hospitals and clinics after a threat actor leaked samples of the stolen data on a hacking forum.

As first reported by DataBreaches.net, on July 5th, 2023, a threat actor began selling data allegedly belonging to HCA Healthcare on a forum used to sell and leak stolen data. This forum post includes samples of the stolen database, which they claim consists of 17 files and 27.7 million database records. According to threat actor the data consists of patients record created between 2021 & 2023. He initially did not offer the database for sale but instead used the post to blackmail HCA Healthcare, giving them until July 10th to" "meet the demands." This is likely related to financial demands, although it wasn't explicitly mentioned.

However, after not receiving a response from HCA, the hacker began selling the full database, with other threat actors expressing interest in purchasing the data.

The organization confirmed 10th July that the data leaked on the hacking forum is authentic, with the stolen database impacting roughly 11,000,000 people. HCA says that the data was stolen from an "external storage location" used to format patient email messages. HCA Healthcare does not believe that the stolen data contains detailed clinical information such as conditions, diagnosis, and treatment, payment information such as credit card and bank account numbers, or other sensitive information like passwords, social security numbers, and driver's licenses.

HCA Healthcare has informed law enforcement agencies about the incident and continues investigating whether its networks and systems are free of malicious activity that might indicate threat actors still have access.

Reference :

1. https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/hca-healthcare-sued-recent-data-breach
2. https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hca-healthcare-data-breach-hack-11-million-patients-affected/