

I chose to cover the 2014 breach of Yahoo. I'll provide an overview of the breach discuss which of the top 10 vulnerabilities the hackers chose to exploit. The breach occurred when an employee at Yahoo clicked a malicious link in an email. This link gave the hackers access to a managers computer where they were able to inject code into the management software and gain access to the Yahoo database. From this they were able to insert code that inserted cookies onto users computers. This allowed them to gain access to a few select emails. Part of what made the breach so successful was the targeted nature of the breach. By selecting only a few thousand emails out of hundreds of millions they decreased their chances of detection. In fact when the FBI was called by Yahoo to investigate, Yahoo had only been aware of 29 of the 6500 breaches. The FBI also discovered that there was a previous breach in 2013, which had not been caught by Yahoo.

The Initial step was a phishing email which exploited code injection to allow the hackers access to a developers or managers computer. From this point the hackers installed a back door which would allow them to maintain access to the database they needed. This might be considered a security misconfiguration (#5 or #9 monitoring failure) because changes to software went unlogged and un-noticed.

Next the hackers were able to steal a copy of Yahoo's database, and search the plain text email addresses to identify targets. This might be considered a security misconfiguration(#5) , as email addresses are sensitive information, given the way people use them.

From this the hackers targeted selected individuals, and stole "nonces" to create and insert malicious cookies into Yahoo that targeted the selected individuals (failure of #9 security logging and monitoring). These targets once again had malicious code injected (#3 injection) that allowed the hackers free-reign access to targeted emails.

To address these failures Yahoo contacted the FBI, and advised its users to change their email passwords. As a result of this and other mismanagement Yahoo is in the process of being absorbed by verizon. T