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CS 30600: Computers in Society

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Database Breaches

Databases are at the core of a lot of businesses. They help companies keep track of their inventory, vendors, and employees. Without databases, it would be very hard to achieve the level of efficiency and ease of data retrieval that is currently available. Imagine trying to find your transcripts and you must go to the school, then spend maybe 30 minutes tracking down the actual document. After finding it, you then must make a copy and deliver it to another school where it may take several days or weeks to process. Databases increase the ease with which we conduct our business, however they can pose a serious threat to our data in the case of a leak.

Just recently a food delivery service, Chowbus was hacked. In the data breach a bad actor not only compromised the database but proceeded to copy the data and send it to all of the users of the service. Numerous users received e-mails in the early hours on Tuesday containing two links to download user and restaurant data. Thankfully, no user credit-card data or account passwords were released in the breach (Abrams). The major concern I have is if the users inadvertently let the hacker into their own system by clicking on the link, since links can be spoofed.

This brings to question the method of punishment or retaliation that should be visited on the hacker. They obviously committed a crime by accessing resources that they had no reason nor permission. Additionally, they exposed the privacy of others who use the service. This also brings to question the standards that companies use to protect their systems and data.

Works Cited

Abrams, Lawrence. “Chowbus delivery service breached, hacker emails data to users.” *BleepingComputer*. October 6, 2020. <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/chowbus-delivery-service-breached-hacker-emails-data-to-users/>. Accessed Oct. 6, 2020.