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## Data of 2.6 million Duolingo users released on hacking forum

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🕒 Read Time: 2 mins

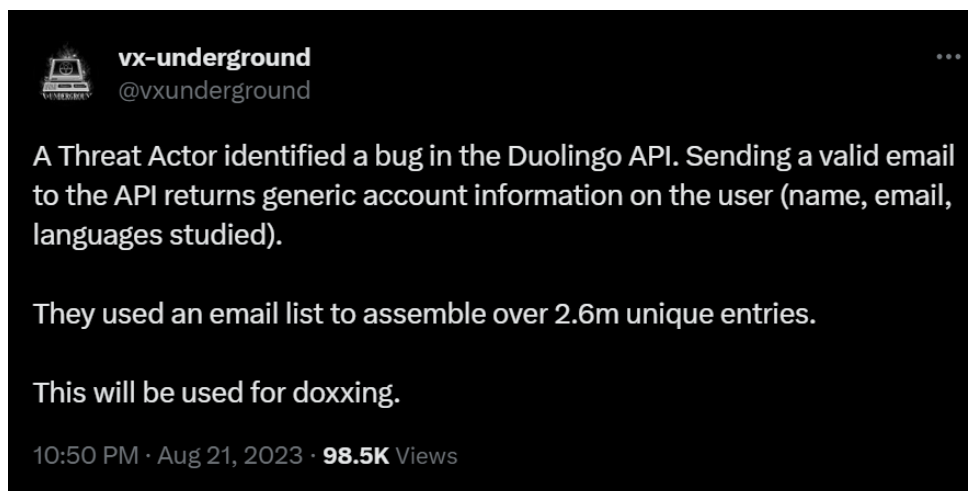


Abstract v5 | Credit: Mercury

A recent blogpost (<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/scraped-data-of-26-million-duolingo-users-released-on-hacking-forum/>) by BleepingComputer has indicated that the scraped data of 2.6 million Duolingo users has been leaked on a hacking forum.

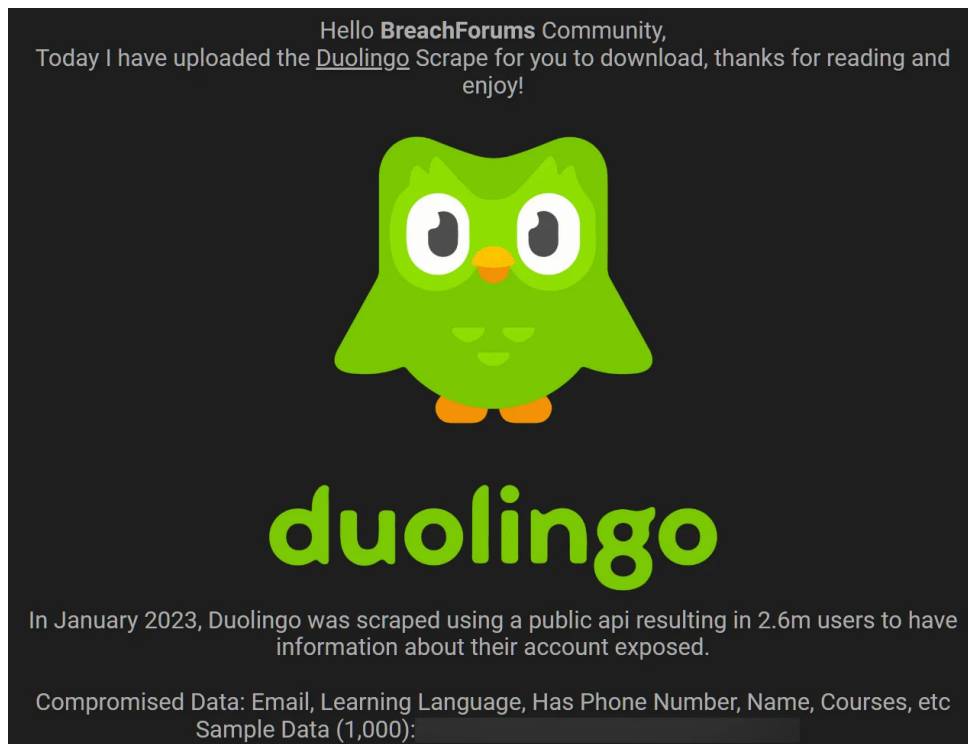
Duolingo (<https://www.duolingo.com>) is a tech company that produces apps for language learning, with a userbase of over 500 million people worldwide.

On August 21, 2023, VX-Underground identified (<https://twitter.com/vxunderground/status/1693742275145150927>) that a threat actor had found a bug in the Duolingo public API. The bug allows sending a user email to the API which returns account information such as name, **email**, and languages they are learning.



The tweet by VX-Underground | Credit: X

BleepingComputer reports that the sensitive dataset released was up for about \$2.13 (₦1,800). However, this is not the first time the database has been in the public eye.



The current data leak post | Credit: BleepingComputer

On January 24, 2023, FalconFeeds tweeted

(<https://twitter.com/FalconFeeds/status/1617735519194214413>?

ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1617735519194214413%7Ctwgr%5E5a3f76ac9ee7; investigating-dark-web-post-offering-data-from-2-6-million-accounts) that a scraped Duolingo database was on sale on a now closed hacker's forum. It claimed to contain 2.6 million account entries and was going for \$1500 (¥1.16 million).

TheRecord reported (<https://therecord.media/duolingo-investigating-dark-web-post-offering-data-from-2-6-million-accounts>) that a spokesperson for Duolingo said they were aware of the prior post and that there was no breach or hack. "These records were obtained by data scraping public profile information" said the spokesperson. The spokesperson also said the organisation was investigating to determine any further actions.

However, Duolingo did not address the fact that email addresses are not to be public information at that time. SOS Intelligence has also indicated (<https://twitter.com/SOSIntel/status/1693851570222358716>) that the API bug was reported some months back, but found out it's been an issue for about a year.

Mercurysnotes (<https://mercurysnotes.com>) contacted Duolingo with questions concerning the leak, but there's been no reply as at the time of publishing.