



# First American Financial Corp.

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EDWARD PHILLIPS

# What They Do

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“First American Title Insurance Company facilitates and streamlines real estate transactions by providing comprehensive title insurance protection and professional settlement services”

- First American is a company that handles everything real estate
- They provide access to homebuyers and sellers, and everyone in between a way to close transactions
- They provide insurance to these people
- They provide investment guidance and security

# The Breach

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- May 2019
- Ben Shoval, real estate developer
- Contacted First American, they provided no response
- Next, contacted Krebs on Security to report the breach
- Was discovered by him just fiddling around with the URL
- Information all the way back from 2003 was present

# The Cause

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- It was noticed that the URL could be changed by one digit to see the previous or subsequent person's information
- The URL for personal documents was saved on the database with no encryption to the URL
- There was no protection for other peoples' information
- Multiple security audits failed to detect the very noticeable flaw

# The Damage

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- Potential of over 900 million customers could be affected
  - Second largest breach behind Yahoo
- Personal information including social security numbers, names, address, phone numbers
- Banking information – routing and account numbers
- Class action lawsuits, legal investigations, company reputation

# The Solutions

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- URL encryption
  - Running the Document ID through an encryption/algorithm to generate a random, hard to guess URL that would make it difficult for hackers to decode
- Password Protection
  - Protecting specific documents and URL's through a password
  - Only allowing access to certain URL's through a portal or account that is password protected
- Two-Factor Identification
  - Accounts that are protected by two forms of identification

# The Recovery

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- EagleID
  - User portal that is password protected
  - Uses multi-factor authorization to ensure user security

## Bibliography

Ikeda, Scott. "First American Financial Corp. Leaked Hundreds of Millions of Title Insurance Records." *Brian Krebs*, 2019, [krebsonsecurity.com/2019/05/first-american-financial-corp-leaked-hundreds-of-millions-of-title-insurance-records/](https://krebsonsecurity.com/2019/05/first-american-financial-corp-leaked-hundreds-of-millions-of-title-insurance-records/).

<https://www.Firstam.com/>

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