A breach at Adobe was announced on October 3, 2013. Adobe originally reported that hackers stole almost 3 million encrypted customer credit card records and login data for an undetermined number of user accounts. After further investigations, it was determined that about 38 million customers were affected. Data stolen included customer names, debit and credit card information, and username and hashed password pairs. In addition to customer data, some source code from multiple Adobe applications were stolen.

Adobe had a backup server that was due to be decommissioned that still had data on it. The hackers breached that server to steal the data. The only thing I could find about how they hacked the server was through “some type of out-of-date” software. Adobe had used a single block cipher throughout the database, making all cipher texts of identical passwords the same. Some users had the password itself, or an obvious clue, in their password hints. This allowed the hackers to figure out passwords and their resulting cipher texts.

To protect against that vulnerability, Adobe decommissioned the compromised database server and removed it from its network, notified and reset the passwords for all affected customers, discontinued the use of password hints, and improved network monitoring.