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*Abstract*

It is nearly impossible to be a modern consumer without interacting with computers and databases at some point. This has inevitably led to computer security becoming increasingly relevant to consumers in all walks of life, as retailers and companies are given access to our private data (such as our credit card information) in the course of transactions. This paper will report on and discuss this issue, with a particular focus on the recent security breaches at major retailers including Home Depot and Target. Of particular interest is malware that targets point-of-sale systems to acquire consumer data as purchases are being made. The paper will also discuss the ramifications of companies apparently leaving bugs open even after those bugs have resulted in major breaches at other similar companies.