

## Security Alert Update: Yahoo Data Breach – 1 Billion Users Affected

December 16, 2016

### **Description:**

Yahoo believes this incident is likely distinct from the incident the company disclosed on September 22, 2016 which you may find in the following link: [bit.ly/utrgvisonewsYDB](http://bit.ly/utrgvisonewsYDB) .

As Yahoo previously disclosed in November, law enforcement provided the company with data files that a third party claimed was Yahoo user data. The company analyzed this data with the assistance of outside forensic experts and found that it appears to be Yahoo user data.

Based on further analysis of this data by the forensic experts, Yahoo believes an unauthorized third party, in August 2013, stole data associated with more than one billion user accounts.

### **Who was affected?**

Yahoo is notifying potentially affected users by email and posting additional information to Yahoo's website. Additionally, Yahoo is asking potentially affected users to promptly change their passwords and adopt alternate means of account verification.

The UTRGV Information Security Office (ISO) highly recommends that any Yahoo user to promptly change their passwords, security questions, and answers.

### **What information was stolen?**

For potentially affected accounts, the stolen user account information may have included names, email addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, hashed passwords (using MD5) and, in some cases, encrypted or unencrypted security questions and answers. The investigation indicates that the stolen information did not include passwords in clear text, payment card data, or bank account information.

Payment card data and bank account information are not stored in the system the company believes was affected.

Separately, Yahoo previously disclosed that its outside forensic experts were investigating the creation of forged cookies that could allow an intruder to access users' accounts without a password. Based on the ongoing investigation, the company believes an unauthorized third party accessed the company's proprietary code to learn how to forge cookies. The outside forensic experts have identified user accounts for which they believe forged cookies were taken or used. Yahoo is notifying the affected account holders, and has invalidated the forged cookies.

### **I use Yahoo, what can I do?**

Sign in to your Yahoo account and change your password, security questions and answers here:

<https://login.yahoo.com/config/login?.done=https%3A%2F%2Flogin.yahoo.com%2Faccount%2Fpersonalinfo>

We encourage all of our users to follow these security recommendations:

- Change your password and security questions and answers for any other accounts on which you use the same or similar credentials as the ones used for your Yahoo Account.
- Review your accounts for suspicious activity.
- Be cautious of any unsolicited communications that ask for your personal information or refer you to a web page asking for personal information.
- Avoid clicking on links or downloading attachments from suspicious emails.

Additionally, please consider checking if you have an account that has been compromised in a data breach here: <https://haveibeenpwned.com/>

### **References**

- <https://investor.yahoo.net/ReleaseDetail.cfm?&ReleaseID=1004285>
- Yahoo FAQs:  
<https://help.yahoo.com/kb/account/SLN27925.html?impressions=true>
- <https://www.scmagazine.com/data-on-1b-yahoo-users-stolen-in-second-breach/article/579323/>



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