

## Public Alert: Equifax Data Breach

### Description:

As you may be aware, Equifax Inc. confirmed on September 7, 2017 a cybersecurity incident affecting approximately 143 million U.S. consumers, based on a recent investigation the unauthorized access occurred from mid-May through July 2017.

### What is Equifax?

Equifax Inc. is a consumer credit reporting agency. Equifax collects and aggregates information on over 800 million individual consumers and more than 88 million businesses worldwide.

### How did this breach happened?

Criminals exploited a U.S. website application vulnerability to gain access to certain files.

### What information was stolen?

- Social Security Numbers
- Birth Dates
- Addresses
- Driver's license numbers

Additionally the hackers also accessed:

- Credit card information of about 209,000 U.S. consumers and
- Dispute documents that included personal identifying information for about 182,000 consumers.

### Was I impacted?

Equifax have established a dedicated website, <https://www.equifaxsecurity2017.com/> , to help U.S. consumers determine if their information has been potentially impacted.

We encourage all of UTRGV students, faculty, and staff to follow these security recommendations:

- Be vigilant of your account statements and credit reports

- Review at least once a week your bank statements
- Report immediately any unauthorized activity to your financial institutions
- Monitor your personal information and visit the Federal Trade Commission's website, [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft) to obtain information about steps that you can take to better protect against identity theft as well as information about fraud alerts and security freezes
- Keep reviewing your information even after this story fades from the headlines

It should be noted that UTRGV data systems were not breached and data that is stored by UTRGV was not impacted as part of the Equifax data breach. Since Equifax has personally identifiable information (PII) for millions of consumers, we still encourage the UTRGV community to find out if their personal information was exposed as part of the Equifax data breach.

References:

- <https://www.equifaxsecurity2017.com/frequently-asked-questions/>
- <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2017/09/equifax-data-breach-what-do>
- <https://www.scmagazine.com/equifax-breach-could-affect-143-million-us-consumers/article/687326/>

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