General Information

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Description

In the largest data breach in United States history, the Federal Government reveals that private financial information from millions of Americans has been stolen for years, from places they have shopped and used their debit and credit cards, in the amount of at least $300 million.

Keywords

Data, Hacking, Private, Information, Debit, Credit, Card, Hacker, Financial, Computer, Technology, Corporation, Criminal, Fraud, Federal, Breach, Network, National Security, Steal, Stolen, Privacy, Identity, Theft, Banking, JC Penney, 7 Eleven, NASDAQ, Jet Blue, Servers, Selling, Sell, Charges, Online, Cyber Attack, Electronic, Payment, Vulnerability, Internet, Store

Citation

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Transcript

Seven Year Hacking Scheme at the Cutting Edge of Financial Fraud

BRIAN WILLIAMS, anchor:
Now to what the feds are telling us is the largest data breach in our nation’s history. The private information of millions of Americans has been stolen from places where they have swiped, debit and credit cards. It happened when some big name stores were hit by hackers. Prosecutors say it went on for years without anyone noticing. Our report tonight from our Senior Investigative Correspondent Lisa Myers.

LISA MYERS, reporting:
The hackers allegedly penetrated the computer systems of some of the largest companies in the world--including JCPenney, 7-Eleven, NASDAQ, Hannaford, JetBlue, Heartland--and stole a staggering 160 million credit and debit card numbers. The numbers were then sold to other criminals and used as debit or credit cards or to withdraw money from ATMs costing victims at least $300 million. Federal prosecutors called it the largest hacking fraud case in history.

PAUL FISHMAN (U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey): This type of crime is really the cutting edge of financial fraud. Those who have the expertise and the inclination to break into our computer networks threaten our economic well-being, our privacy, and ultimately our national security.

MYERS: Prosecutors described it as a sophisticated seven-year scheme by experienced hackers. Four Russians and one Ukrainian were charged.

FISHMAN: Once they got in the networks and they would often brag to each other that when they were in, they, quote, "Owned," close quote, the networks.

MYERS: The stolen data was allegedly stored in computer servers in the U.S. and around the world and then sold. Ten dollars for an American credit card number. Fifteen for a Canadian. And $50 for a European. So far, the government says the hundreds of millions of dollars in losses have been borne by the companies. But officials also say there are unknown costs to individuals whose identities were stolen or who may not have noticed unauthorized withdrawals or credit card charges.

DAN KARSON (Kroll Advisory Solutions): The most important thing a consumer can do is to check
online cash withdrawals and credit card statements on a regular basis.

MYERS: But prosecutors warned that this kind of fraud ultimately costs us all by increasing the cost of doing business. Lisa Myers, NBC News, Washington.