More and more organizations are accepting the fact that, despite their best efforts, security breaches are unavoidable.
The first six months of 2015 demonstrated that hackers continue to get past conventional perimeter security with relative ease, targeting nearly every industry and executing several high profile data breaches that scored tens of millions of data records each. And, while Identity Theft remains one of the leading types of data breaches, the first half of 2015 has shown a shift in attack targets. For example, data records stolen from state-sponsored attacks rose dramatically compared to previous years and healthcare and government overtook retail as the major sectors under siege with the number of compromised data records.

The 2015 First Half Review Key Findings

According to the latest findings of the Breach Level Index produced by digital security company Gemalto, 888 data breaches occurred in the first half of 2015, compromising 245.9 million records worldwide. The number of breaches was relatively flat compared with the last six months of 2014 (892) but increased by 10% compared to the 803 data breaches in first half of 2014.

A more dramatic decline was in the number of breached records which fell by 40% from the 414.8 million records breached in the first half of last year. There was an even greater drop (61%) in the number of breached records compared with the second half of 2014, which saw a total of 626.4 million records exposed.

One notable statistic is that for nearly 50% of the reported first half 2015 data breaches, the total number of data records that were compromised is unknown.

Large, headline-grabbing data breaches continue to expose massive amounts of stolen records. The biggest breach in the first half of this year, which scored a 10 on the Breach Level Index magnitude scale, was an identity theft attack on Anthem Insurance that exposed 78.8 million records. That attack represented one third (32%) of the total records exposed in the first half of 2015, and was highly publicized in part because it represented the first major state-sponsored cyber-attack of several that occurred in 2015.

Other notable breaches in the analysis period included a breach of 21 million records at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, with a Breach Level Index score of 9.7; a 50 million record breach at Turkey’s General Directorate of Population and Citizenship Affairs with a score of 9.3; and a 20 million record breach at Russia’s Topface with a score of 9.2. The top 10 breaches accounted for 82% of all compromised records in the first half of the year.

To create the Breach Level Index, Gemalto gathers extensive information about data breaches worldwide, using sources including Internet searches, news articles and analyses, and other resources.

The data is aggregated into the Index where it is analyzed according to the number of breaches and data records lost and categorized by industry, type of breach, source of breach, and tallied by country or region.
The U.S. based health insurance provider was hit with a state-sponsored, identity theft breach in February 2015. Criminal hackers broke into the firm’s servers and stole 78.8 million records that contain personally identifiable information. According to Anthem, the data breach extended into multiple brands that the company uses to market its healthcare plans including: Anthem Blue Cross, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Amerigroup, Caremore, and UniCare.

The Turkish government agency suffered an identity theft attack from a malicious outsider that resulted in the theft of 50 million records. According to the Presidency’s State Audit Institution, the servers of the administration’s website were easily breached and information about citizens was stolen.

In June 2015, the OPM was the target of a data breach that involved 21 million records. This was a state-sponsored identity theft attack which has been described by federal officials as one of the largest breaches of government data in the history of the U.S. Information targeted in the breach included personally identifiable information such as Social Security numbers, names, dates and places of birth, and addresses.

This Russia-based online dating service experienced an account access breach by a malicious outsider that resulted in the theft of 20 million records. According to a Bloomberg report, the stolen information included the user names and e-mail addresses of 20 million visitors to the site.

One of India’s most popular music streaming services was hit with an identity theft attack by a malicious outsider that affected 10 million records. According to The Hacker News, the records stolen included user names, email addresses, passwords, birthdates, and other personal information.
The Breach Level Index score, which rates the severity of a data breach, is based on factors such as total number of records breached, type of data in the records, source of the breach, and how the information was used. A score of 1 to 2.9 is minimal risk, 3 to 4.9 is moderate, 5 to 6.9 is critical, 7 to 8.9 is severe, and 9 to 10 is catastrophic. The scale shows that not all data breaches have the same impact on organizations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>RECORDS</th>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>INDUSTRY</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTHEM INSURANCE COMPANIES (ANTHEM BLUE CROSS) (U.S.)</td>
<td>78,800,000</td>
<td>IDENTITY THEFT</td>
<td>HEALTHCARE</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF POPULATION AND CITIZENSHIP AFFAIRS/THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF LAND REGISTRY AND CADASTER (TURKEY)</td>
<td>50,000,000</td>
<td>IDENTITY THEFT</td>
<td>GOVERNMENT</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT (U.S.)</td>
<td>21,000,000</td>
<td>IDENTITY THEFT</td>
<td>GOVERNMENT</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOPFACE (RUSSIA)</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
<td>ACCOUNT ACCESS</td>
<td>TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAANA.COM / TIMES INTERNET (PAKISTAN)</td>
<td>10,000,000</td>
<td>IDENTITY THEFT</td>
<td>RETAIL</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAKUTEN AND LINE CORP (JAPAN)</td>
<td>7,850,000</td>
<td>ACCOUNT ACCESS</td>
<td>RETAIL</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TALKTALK (U.K.)</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
<td>IDENTITY THEFT</td>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDICAL INFORMATICS ENGINEERING (U.S.)</td>
<td>3,900,000</td>
<td>IDENTITY THEFT</td>
<td>HEALTHCARE</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADULT FRIENDFINDER (U.S.)</td>
<td>3,867,997</td>
<td>EXISTENTIAL DATA</td>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REGISTER.COM (U.S.)</td>
<td>1,400,000</td>
<td>EXISTENTIAL DATA</td>
<td>TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAUDI ARABIA GOVERNMENT (SAUDI ARABIA)</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>EXISTENTIAL DATA</td>
<td>GOVERNMENT</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The leading source of data breaches in the first half of 2015 continues to be malicious outsiders, who are responsible for 546 of the breaches in this period and comprise 61.5% of the total. The share of attacks attributed to outsiders has risen steadily since the first half of 2013 when it accounted for only 52%.

Accidental loss is the next highest source of data breaches. At 197, accidental loss accounts for 22.2% of all data breaches in the first half of 2015. Rounding out the top five source types are malicious insiders (107 breaches for 12.0%), hacktivists (19 breaches for 2.5%), and state sponsored (17 breaches for 2.2%).

**Compromised Data Records**

In terms of compromised data records, malicious outsiders took the top spot with 114.5 million stolen. This accounted for nearly half of all the records exposed in breaches during the period (46.6%). It’s notable that the share was down considerably from first half of 2013 (93.2%), the second half of 2013 (96.3%), and the first half of 2014 (71.8%). It was similar to the 42% share in the second half of last year, which may indicate that records lost due to breaches by malicious outsiders have leveled off.

The next highest source of data records lost was state-sponsored attacks with 101.5 million (41.3%). That was a significant increase from any previous period since 2013. For example, in 2013 and 2014, the amount of data records affected by state-sponsored breaches was negligible and garnered a share of just 1.1% of all records in the second half of 2014.

Other sources of records theft in first half of 2015 were accidental loss (28.6 million for 11.6%), malicious insiders (784,000 for 0.3%), and hacktivists (562,000 for 0.2%). The number of records affected by accidental loss dropped dramatically from the second half of 2014, when it was 305.2 million for 48.7%. Similarly, the amount of records lost because of malicious insiders has decreased sharply from 106.2 million (25.6%) in the first half of 2014 and 52.9 million (8.5%) in the second half of that year.
DATA BREACHES
BY SOURCE OVER TIME

2015 FIRST HALF REVIEW

NUMBER OF BREACH INCIDENTS
BY SOURCE OVER TIME

NUMBER OF RECORDS
BREACHED BY SOURCE OVER TIME

SOURCE | H1 2013 | H2 2013 | H1 2014 | H2 2014 | H1 2015
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Malicious Outsider | 335 | 314 | 465 | 470 | 546
Accidental Loss | 159 | 140 | 189 | 216 | 197
Malicious Insider | 114 | 78 | 125 | 153 | 107
Hacktivist | 21 | 8 | 4 | 15 | 19
State Sponsored | 3 | 10 | 20 | 40 | 17

SOURCE | H1 2013 | H2 2013 | H1 2014 | H2 2014 | H1 2015
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Malicious Outsider | 142,693,717 | 409,067,412 | 297,681,964 | 263,311,253 | 114,520,847
Accidental Loss | 8,482,892 | 6,140,675 | 3,425,888 | 305,285,159 | 28,568,633
Malicious Insider | 1,149,769 | 9,200,723 | 106,190,172 | 52,947,689 | 784,329
Hacktivist | 777,216 | 98,730 | 7,000,096 | 1,182,005 | 561,918
State Sponsored | 38 | 165,015 | 3,016,409 | 6,912,064 | 102,883,225
During the first half of 2015, attackers used a variety of techniques against organizations to acquire personal identities, financial data, or access to account information.

The leading type of data breach in the first half of 2015 was identity theft as the cause of 472 data breaches, accounting for more than half (53.2%) of first half 2015 attacks and nearly three-quarters (74.9%) of compromised data records. Five of the top 10 breaches in the first half 2015, including the top three, were identity theft breaches.

The next most common type of data breach was financial access to data. Responsible for 197 breaches in the first half, financial access accounts for 22.2% of the total but only about 1% of compromised data records. Other data breach types include existential data (96 breaches, 10.8%), account access (93 breaches, 10.5%) and nuisance (30 breaches, 3.4%).

The frequency of these attack types in the first half of the year is largely in line with all of 2014 with some minor fluctuations in the percentages.

Concerning compromised data records, identity theft also was the leading cause of data records exposure in the first half of 2015 with 185.7 million records, or about three quarters of all records (74.9%), exposed in the first half. Next was account access [34.3 million for 13.9%], followed by nuisance [15 million for 6.1%], existential data [8.8 million for 3.6%] and financial access [2 million for 0.8%].

Perhaps the most notable changes compared with the second half of 2014 were that the share of data records attributed to identity theft that were stolen rose from 30.2%, and stolen data records attributed to account access dropped from 50.2%.
### Number of Breach Incidents by Type Over Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF BREACH</th>
<th>H1 2013</th>
<th>H2 2013</th>
<th>H1 2014</th>
<th>H2 2014</th>
<th>H1 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identity Theft</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Access</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existential Data</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account Access</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuisance</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Number of Records Breached by Type Over Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF BREACH</th>
<th>H1 2013</th>
<th>H2 2013</th>
<th>H1 2014</th>
<th>H2 2014</th>
<th>H1 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identity Theft</td>
<td>6,436,318</td>
<td>121,624,113</td>
<td>316,003,444</td>
<td>115,316,845</td>
<td>185,717,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Access</td>
<td>4,660,027</td>
<td>270,264,132</td>
<td>34,905,015</td>
<td>35,876,605</td>
<td>2,071,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existential Data</td>
<td>1,818,066</td>
<td>3,323,008</td>
<td>555,843</td>
<td>35,573,128</td>
<td>8,784,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account Access</td>
<td>138,226,695</td>
<td>23,375,563</td>
<td>50,911,957</td>
<td>156,442,510</td>
<td>34,315,208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuisance</td>
<td>2,635,306</td>
<td>6,090,484</td>
<td>14,939,907</td>
<td>50,882,682</td>
<td>15,030,984</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The healthcare industry historically has had the highest number of data breaches and that was no different in the first half of 2015. The sector experienced 187 breaches, accounting for 21.1% of the total. That’s actually down from recent half-year periods, both in the number of breaches and in the share of breaches among industries.

The next industry with the highest number of breaches was financial services, with 143 breaches in the first half, for a 16.1% share of the total. Closely following financial services was government, which saw 140 breaches in the first half, for a 15.8% share of the total. Following these were retail (115 for 13.0%), education (94 for 10.6%), and technology (46 for 5.2%). The remaining 163 data breaches in the first half were divided up among several other industries, and accounted for 18.4% of the first half total.

As for the number of data records lost by industry, healthcare took the top spot with 84.4 million records or 34% of the total. Government accounted for 77.2 million records lost with 31.4%.

Following healthcare and government in the number of records for the first half of 2015 were technology (37.5 million for 15.2%), retail (18.6 million for 7.6%), education (15.7 million for 6.4%), and financial services (683,133 for 0.3%).

This represents a dramatic shift from the past few years when both healthcare and government had relatively small numbers of records involved in data breaches. For example, in the second half of 2014, healthcare accounted for only 5.2% of stolen records and government accounted for only 2.8%. In previous periods, the number of records involved in data breaches was mostly in retail and financial services industries.
HOW THE INDUSTRIES COMPARE

NUMBER OF RECORDS BREACHED BY INDUSTRY

NUMBER OF BREACH INCIDENTS BY INDUSTRY OVER TIME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDUSTRY</th>
<th>H1 2013</th>
<th>H2 2013</th>
<th>H1 2014</th>
<th>H2 2014</th>
<th>H1 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Services</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Industries</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data breach notification laws vary greatly by country. Due to its more strict data breach disclosure regulations, the United States has the highest number of reported data breaches. For the 28 European Union member countries, they will likely see an increase in reported data breaches once the European Commission adopts General Data Protection Regulation sometime in 2016.

With 707 reported breaches (79.6% of the total), North America once again led all regions in the number of data breaches in the first half of 2015. This was an increase of 11.4% compared to the first half of last year when the region saw 633 breaches (78.8%). Europe was a distant second, with 94 breaches (10.6%), followed by Asia Pacific with 63 (7.1%), the Middle East / Africa with 14 (1.6%), and South America with 4 (0.4%). Those figures were not much different from the findings in the first half of 2014.

North America also was the top region for records exposed, with 121.2 million (49.3%). That compares with 112 million (27%) in the first half of 2014. Next highest in records exposed was the Middle East, with 76.5 million for 31.1%. Europe had 36.6 million compromised data records (14.9%), Asia Pacific had 11.5 million (4.7%), and South America with just 4,360 records exposed for less than 1%. The most dramatic changes in records exposed from the first half of 2014 were a significant increase for the Middle East and significant drop for Asia Pacific.
In terms of individual countries, the United States had the most data breaches in the first half of 2015 (671 for 75.6%), followed by the United Kingdom (63 for 7.1%) and Canada (33 for 3.7%). The U.S. also had the most records involved in breaches with 120.9 million which accounted for 48.8% of the total.

Turkey had 65 million (6.2%) records exposed and the United Kingdom with 8.3 million records exposed for 3.4% of the total.
A NEW MINDSET FOR DATA SECURITY

Breach Prevention Alone Has Failed

The First Half 2015 Breach Level Index from Gemalto shows that data breaches are very much a growing threat for organizations. The number of records compromised is remarkable considering the lengths many organizations go to in order to protect their data.

It’s apparent that a new approach to data security is needed if organizations are to stay ahead of the attackers and more effectively protect their intellectual property, data, customer information, employees, and their bottom lines against data breaches in the future.

Security is consuming a larger share of total IT spending, but security effectiveness against the data-breach epidemic is not improving at all. Enterprises are not investing in security based on reality as it is; they’re investing in security based on reality as it was: a bygone era where hackers were glory-seeking vandals, sensitive data was centralized, and the edge of the enterprise was a desktop PC in a known location. And, back then, in that reality, network firewalls and other network perimeter “breach-prevention” technologies were good enough. In an age where data is distributed across and beyond the enterprise, yesterday’s “good enough” approach to security is obsolete. Hackers—whether skilled criminals or insiders—both malicious and accidental are a constant threat to data.

There is nothing wrong with network perimeter security technologies as an added layer of protection. The problem is that many enterprises today rely on them as the foundation of their information security strategies, and, unfortunately, there is really no fool-proof way to prevent a breach from occurring. Alarmingly, market trends show that the lion’s share of organizations have no plans to change this approach. According to research firm IDC, of the $32.6 billion enterprises spent on security technology in 2014, 62% ($20.2 billion) was invested in network and perimeter security.

It’s apparent that a new approach to data security is needed if organizations are to stay ahead of the attackers and more effectively protect against data breaches in the future.
From Breach Prevention to Breach Acceptance

The Breach Level Index indicates that data breaches have been increasing in frequency and size over the last couple of years. So, by definition, breach prevention is an irrelevant strategy for keeping out cybercriminals. In addition, every organization already has potential adversaries inside the perimeter. Disregarding these internal threats not only invites blatant misuse but also fails to protect against accidental carelessness. Even non-malicious behaviors such as: bringing work home via personal email accounts, lost devices, storing data on USB drives, and vendors unknowingly sharing network log-in credentials and passwords are a few examples of how easy it is to innocently leak sensitive data.

In today’s environment, the core of any security strategy needs to shift from “breach prevention” to “breach acceptance.” And, when one approaches security from a breach-acceptance viewpoint, the world becomes a relatively simple place where securing data, not the perimeter, is the top priority. Securing the data is a challenging proposition in a world where cloud, virtualization, and mobile devices are causing an exponential increase in the attack surface. Many organizations might be inclined to address this problem with a ‘containment’ strategy that limits the places where data can go and only allows a limited number of people to access it. However, this strategy of “no”– where security is based on restricting data access and movement – runs counter to everything technology enables us to do. Today’s mandate is to achieve a strategy of “yes” where security is built around the understanding that the movement and sharing of data is fundamental to business success.

From Breach Acceptance to Securing the Breach

It’s one thing to change mindsets. It’s another to implement a new approach to security across an organization. While there is no “one size fits all” prescription for achieving the “Secure Breach” reality, there are three steps that every company should take to mitigate the overall cost and adverse consequences that result from a security breach. **Control access and authentication of users. Encrypt all sensitive data** at rest and in motion, and **securely store and manage all of your encryption keys**. By implementing each of these three steps into your IT infrastructure, companies can effectively prepare for a breach and avoid falling victim to one.

**CONTROL USER ACCESS**

**ENCRYPT THE DATA**

**STORE AND MANAGE KEYS**

It’s not a question IF your network will be breached, the only question is WHEN. With the velocity of business accelerating, new technologies are being deployed constantly and new and sophisticated attacks are being launched regularly, is it not inevitable that it is only a matter of time before your business is hacked. Learn more at: www.securethebreach.com
What’s Your Score?
Find Out At

BREACHLEVELINDEX.COM

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