(Approx. 355 words)

Burned By Another Security Breach?

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If you're reading this, there's a fair chance your personal data has been compromised. *Stolen.* As Malwarebytes Labs reports, "Earlier this week, the data of over 70 million people was posted for sale on an online cybercrime forum. The person selling the data claims it stems from a 2021 breach at AT&T."

If you think you might be a victim, you can type the email address connected to your AT&T account here on the Malwarebytes website. (Malwarebytes is a well-known company that produces anti-virus software and similar products.)

This security breach is especially troubling because, as Bleeping Computer notes, "AT&T says a massive trove of data impacting 71 million people did not originate from its systems after a hacker leaked it on a cybercrime forum and claimed it was stolen in a 2021 breach of the company." The stolen personal data is from an alleged 2021 AT&T breach that hackers calling themselves ShinyHunters attempted to sell on the dark web.

Search tools like Google, Yahoo!, or DuckDuckGo cannot reach the dark web. It's comprised of websites where everything from drugs to guns to personal information is sold for the right price. Whether or not the stolen data came from AT&T, the wireless giant says it has started notifying millions of customers about the data thefts.

AT&T says it has already reset the passwords of current customers and will be contacting others whose passwords, Social Security numbers, and possibly email and street addresses were compromised.

Prosecutors in New York are opening an investigation into the breach.

Numerous tech websites are urging AT&T's current and former customers to freeze their credit accounts at the big three credit agencies–TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax. In addition, sign up for two-factor notification on their AT&T accounts and change your AT&T password if it hasn't already been changed. Also, monitor your credit reports.

This isn't the first time the phone company has had problems. In a major AT&T outage in March, the company apologized for the disruption and offered a $5 credit to customers.