

2010 Data Breach Investigations Report





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A call for breach research

"...we will create a National Digital Security Board modeled on the National Transportation Safety Board. The NDSB will have the authority to **investigate information security breaches** reported by victim organizations. The NDSB will publish reports on its findings for the benefit of the public and other organizations, thereby **increasing transparency** in two respects. First, intrusions will have real costs beyond those directly associated with the incident, by bringing potentially poor security practices and software to the attention of the public. Second, other organizations will **learn how to avoid the mistakes** made by those who fall victim to intruders."

Remarks by the president on securing our nation's cyber infrastructure May 29, 2009

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-on-Securing-Our-Nations-Cyber-Infrastructure/



Methodology

Data Source

- Verizon Business Investigative Response Team
- NEW: United States Secret Service (USSS)

Collection and Analysis

- VERIS framework used to collect data after investigation – USSS used internal application based on VERIS
- Case data anonymized and aggregated
- RISK Intelligence team provides analytics

Data Sample

- Six years of forensic investigations (not internal Verizon incidents)
- •>900 breaches, 900 million stolen records in combined dataset
 - Actual compromise rather than data-at-risk
 - Both disclosed and non-disclosed
 - Many of the largest breaches ever reported



VERIS Framework

VERIS is a set of metrics designed to provide a common language for describing security incidents (or threats) in a structured and repeatable manner.

The overall goal is to create a foundation for data-driven decision-making and risk management.



VERIS Framework

The Incident Classification section employs Verizon's A⁴ threat model



A security incident (or threat scenario) is modeled as a series of **events**. Every event is comprised of the following 4 A's:

Agent: Whose actions affected the asset Action: What actions affected the asset Asset: Which assets were affected Attribute: How the asset was affected

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2010 Data Breach Investigations Report RESULTS & ANALYSIS

Threat Agents









Threat Agents





External Agents

Table 1. Types of external agents by percent of breaches within External

Organized criminal group	24%
Unaffiliated person(s)	21%
External system(s) or site	3%
Activist group	2%
Former employee (no longer had access)	2%
Another organization (not partner or competitor)	1%
Competitor	1%
Customer (B2C)	1%
Unknown	45%

Origin of external agents by percent of breaches within External





Internal Agents

Role of internal agents by percent of breaches within Internal

4%	Unintentional
6%	Inappropriate
90%	Deliberate

Types of internal agents by percent of breaches within Internal		
Regular employee/end-user	51%	
Finance/accounting staff	12%	
System/network administrator	12%	
Executive/upper management	7%	
Helpdesk staff	4%	
Software developer	3%	
Auditor	1%	
Unknown	9%	



Partner Agents



ypes of internal agents by percen f breaches within Internal	t
Regular employee/end-user	51%
Finance/accounting staff	12%
System/network administrator	12%
Executive/upper management	7%
Helpdesk staff	4%
Software developer	3%
Auditor	1%
Unknown	9%







Threat Actions Verizon





Threat Actions USSS





Malware Infection Vector





Malware Functionality

Malware functionality by percent of breaches within Malware and percent of records



Malware Customization





Hacking Types

Types of hacking by percent of breaches within Hacking and percent of records





Hacking Paths





²⁰ Patchable vulnerabilities: 0

Social Types





Misuse Types



Assets & Data



Categories of compromised assets by percent of breaches and percent of records







Attack Difficulty & Targeting



Attack difficulty by percent of breaches and records*







Discovery Methods

Breach discovery methods by percent of breaches





Unknown Unknowns

Unknown Unknowns by percent of breaches and percent of records







PCI DSS

Percent of relevant organizations in compliance with PCI DSS requirements based on post-breach reviews conducted by Verizon IR team*

Build and Maintain a Secure Network	2008	2009
equirement 1: Install and maintain a firewall configuration to protect data		35%
Requirement 2: Do not use vendor-supplied defaults for system passwords and other security parameters	49%	30%
Protect Cardholder Data		
Requirement 3: Protect Stored Data	11%	30%
Requirement 4: Encrypt transmission of cardholder data and sensitive information across public networks	68%	90%
Maintain a Vulnerability Management Program		
Requirement 5: Use and regularly update anti-virus software	62%	53%
Requirement 6: Develop and maintain secure systems and applications	5%	21%
Implement Strong Access Control Measures		
Requirement 7: Restrict access to data by business need-to-know	24%	30%
Requirement 8: Assign a unique ID to each person with computer access	19%	35%
Requirement 9: Restrict physical access to cardholder data	43%	58%
Regularly Monitor and Test Networks		
Requirement 10: Track and monitor all access to network resources and cardholder data	5%	30%
Requirement 11: Regularly test security systems and processes	14%	25%
Maintain an Information Security Policy		
Requirement 12: Maintain a policy that addresses information security	14%	40%





Conclusion & Recommendations

Overall

- USSS cases afforded more complete picture of breaches
 - Further confirmation on what we already observed
 - New insight from pieces of the picture we were missing

Agents

- External small majority of breaches, dominates overall data loss – Largely due to organized crime
- Internal up because of USSS cases
- Partner down again in both datasets

Actions

- Two most-common scenarios
 - Exploit error, gain access to network/systems, install malware (External)
 - Exploit privilege, abuse access and/or embezzle funds/data (Internal)
 - Still not highly difficult or targeted though slightly more than before



Conclusion & Recommendations

Assets

- Most data compromised from servers & apps
- Desktops/laptops increasing; related to stolen credentials
- Most criminals interested in cashable forms of data

Discovery & Response

- Discovery still takes a long time and is largely due to third parties
- Response and containment slow and prone to mishap

Mitigation

- The basics if done consistently are sufficient in most cases
- Keep outsiders out; they are increasingly difficult to control once in
- Restrict and monitor insiders; disable access when they leave
- Maintain adequate resources for detection; make better use of logs
- ³⁰ Plan, prepare, train, and test for a timely and effective response **verizon**



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