Intrada TECHNOLOGIES

2.9 Billion Records Stolen in Data Hack: Now What Do I Do?

In what has been described as one of the largest data breaches in history, a staggering 2.9 billion records, including sensitive information such as Social Security numbers, were compromised in a recent hack.

What Was Hacked?

The compromised records stemmed from numerous sources, including financial institutions, healthcare providers, and government agencies. The data breach encompassed a wide array of sensitive information, including names, addresses, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, credit card details, and various account credentials.

So, What Should You Do Personally?

Considering the recent data breach, Intrada recommends taking action to safeguard your personal information. Here are some suggested steps to mitigate potential risks associated with the stolen data:

1. **Monitor Your Accounts:** Regularly check your bank and credit card statements for any suspicious activity. Report any unauthorized charges immediately. You may also be able to setup monitoring of your parents' accounts so you are notified of changes.
2. **Change Passwords:** It is time to update your passwords for all online accounts, particularly for financial services. Utilize strong, unique passwords and consider using a password manager for additional security.
3. **Utilize Two-Factor Authentication:** Whenever available, enable two-factor authentication (2FA) or sometimes called multi-factor authentication (MFA) on your accounts to add an extra layer of protection.
4. **Consider a Credit Freeze:** If you believe your personal information may be misused, consider placing a credit freeze on your accounts. To initiate a credit freeze, you will need to contact each of the three major credit bureaus and each offer a freeze at no charge. Here are the contact details for each:

   Equifax: (equifax.com or 1-800-349-9960)
   Experian: (experian.com or 1-888-397-3742)
   TransUnion: (transunion.com or 1-888-909-8872)
5. **Beware of Phishing Scams:** Exercise caution with unsolicited email communication that asks for personal information. Always verify the source before replying.

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