

SECURITY LAPSES OF EMAIL SERVICES

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SUMMARY

The biggest security lapse for an email service occurred for "Yahoo Mail" in 2016 but other email services have had security intrusions that were smaller in scope.

TOPICS

- Security Breaches of "Yahoo!Mail"
- Security breaches of "Gmail"
- Security Breach of "AOL"

SECURITY BREACHES OF "YAHOO!MAIL"

- According to [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yahoo!
o!_data_breaches:](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yahoo!_data_breaches)
The Internet service company Yahoo! reported two major data breaches of user account data to hackers during the second half of 2016.

SECURITY BREACHES OF "YAHOO!MAIL" (continued)

- The first announced breach, reported in September 2016, had occurred sometime in late 2014, and affected over 500 million Yahoo! user accounts.[1]
- A separate data breach, occurring earlier around August 2013, was reported in December 2016, and affected over 1 billion user accounts.[2]

SECURITY BREACHES OF "YAHOO!MAIL" (continued)

- Both breaches are considered the largest discovered in the history of the Internet. Specific details of material taken include names, email addresses, telephone numbers, encrypted or unencrypted security questions and answers, dates of birth, and encrypted passwords.[3]

SECURITY BREACHES OF "YAHOO!MAIL" (continued)

- https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2016/09/22/report-yahoo-to-confirm-data-breach-affecting-hundreds-of-millions-of-accounts/?utm_term=.08b9b3cb845d

SECURITY BREACHES OF "GMAIL"

- There are no known direct intrusions on Google's Gmail server farms
- However, according to <https://www.hackread.com/gmail-yahoo-for-sale-on-dark-web/> in an article written on March 19, 2017: passwords and other information have about Gmail accounts have been obtained by hacks of other Web sites:

SECURITY BREACHES OF "GMAIL" (continued)

- <Start of quote:>
The total number of Gmail accounts being sold are 4,928,888 which have been divided into three different listings.
<End of quote>

SECURITY BREACHES OF "GMAIL"

(continued)

- <start of quote:>
..these (Google) accounts have been collected from different data breaches including (a hack of) LinkedIn in which 117 million (Google) accounts were leaked, Adobe breach in which 153 million (Google) accounts were stolen and (a hack of) Bitcoin Security Forum in which 5M Gmail passwords (were stolen). <end of quote>

SECURITY BREACH OF "AOL"

- According to <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AOL>:
In 2003, Jason Smathers, an AOL employee, was convicted of stealing America Online's 92 million screen names and selling them to a known spammer. Smathers pled guilty to conspiracy charges in 2005.^{[155][156]}
Smathers pled guilty to violations of the US CAN-SPAM Act of 2003.^[157] He was sentenced in August 2005 to 15 months in prison; <end of quote>