I.T. RIGHT

Information Technology Solutions that
Work for Local Government

The Dangers of the Equifax Hack

The Equifax hack is the largest in a line of high profile security breaches in recent years. From what we know so far, the hackers made out with the sensitive personal information of 145.5 million people, or about 45% of the population of the United States. This has given attackers access to a possibly unprecedented amount of personal information. Even if you have never heard of Equifax, it is almost certain that your personal information or that of users in your network has been stolen during this hack. Certainly spend the time to change passwords, check bank activity, and take precautions against identity theft. More importantly, now is the time to warn your users about the dangers of phishing.

Phishing attacks are attempts made by hackers, usually via email or other electronic means, to trick a victim into opening a page or downloading a file by mimicking legitimate sources. A common example of a phishing attack is a message from a bank stating that "your account has beenoverdrawn, click for more information," or "click here to view your monthly statement." In the past, such attacks relied heavily on sending these emails in massive numbers (a tactic known as "spamming"), as it was easier than figuring out where a specific person did their banking.

Recently, phishing attacks have taken on a new level of sophistication. Attackers have begun tailoring their messages for specific victims, using personal information found on social media, email accounts, or insecure transactions to forge extraordinarily believable emails. The more they know about a person, the more easily they can trick them into downloading ransomware, transferring funds, or compromising the entire network. Because of this, the Equifax hack represents an extreme danger to network security and a huge advantage to phishers. It is vital that users understand and be prepared for these threats.

KnowBe4: User Education

Due to the rising threat of phishing attacks and other cyber fraud, we are offering free trials of a product called KnowBe4 that tests and educates users on a variety of common security threats. The free trial would involve sending a batch of benign phishing emails to your network's users. KnowBe4 will provide click rates and a list of clickers, effectively grading your users on their ability to avoid phishing attacks. If you choose, we could then arrange a subscription that would grant access to a wide range of educational videos, each designed to train users how to detect particular cyber threats.

IT Right has made use of KnowBe4 already, and believes it to be an effective tool against attacks that rely on human error. Please take advantage of this free trial and consider a KnowBe4 subscription to prepare your users for attacks on them and, through them, your network. Contact us if you are interested in a free trial, and we can arrange for them to begin training your users.

KnowBe4
Human error. Conquered.