

Data breach in Texas risks information of 3.5 million people

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Over the last week or so there has been massive news about the data breach incident that has happened at [Epsilon](#). Epsilon is an email marketing company that sends over 40 billions emails to its corporate customers. Apparently, the program was cracked by malicious hackers who have stolen the data of over millions customer emails. Some of the customers include [Citibank](#), [Disney](#), [Hilton](#), [JP Morgan Chase](#), [Target](#), [Tivo](#), [Barclays Bank](#).

While people are just recovering from the shock of this massive breach that happened at Epsilon, an equally critical incident has happened at none other than Texas. From what we can hear about the reports, the [Texas data breach](#) is even more massive.

What Exactly Happened?

The private & confidential details of over 3.5 million Texas residents were openly accessible on an unencrypted public server for over a

year. Texas Comptroller Susan Combs confirmed that the information available included Social Security numbers, dates of birth and other data accessible which was open to general public. Apart from this other information included snail mail, dates of birth and drivers' license numbers. In addition, the data also included the one transferred by the Texas Workforce Commission, Teacher Retirement System of Texas and the Employees Retirement System of Texas.

How was the Breach Identified?

It was a routine scan conducted by executives from the office of State Comptroller Susan Combs that revealed the state in which records were. This incident clearly violates the [Texas state law](#) according to which the records should-not only be present on a public server but also should be encrypted.

The problem was discovered on March 31 and the agency spokesman R.J. DeSilva said, "We can't emphasize enough how much we regret that his happened," DeSilva said. "We're truly sorry about this exposure."

From her side Susan Combs offered apology by saying, "I deeply regret the exposure of the personal information that occurred and am angry that it happened,". "I want to reassure people that the information was sealed off from any public access immediately after the mistake was discovered, and was then moved to a secure location."

According to [Security analyst Larry Ponemon](#) every lost customer record values at \$214 for a company. Naturally it appears a massive amount in the case of 3.5 million Texans in the United States. The major reason for such data breaches in America are massive cracks and phishing cases that happen on a regular basis.

What's the Cure Now?

The office has begun sending letters to those who have been affected by the data breach incident which happens to be the largest in the history of Texas. Also the state attorney general has started a criminal investigation.

The spokesman for Attorney General Greg Abbott, Jerry Strickland mentioned that they are working with the FBI to conduct a thorough investigation in this matter. Although at this stage, it has not been mentioned about the type of information that investigators are looking for. The office does have a cyberspace unit and forensic investigators.

Related articles

- [Spear Phishing: The Real Danger Behind the Epsilon Data Breach](#) (pcworld.com)
- [Texas exposes addresses, SSNs of 3.5 million residents](#) (arstechnica.com)