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April 11, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Office of the Attorney General
Attn: Security Breach Notification
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
idtheft@oag.state.md.us

RE: Notification of Maryland Residents of Data Breach at the Ohio Historical Society

To Whom it May Concern:

In February 2024, cybercriminals gained access to an OHS employee's user account. OHS employed an IT forensic consultant and other IT professionals to assess the extent of the breach, and to identify those whose information may have been accessed. A review of the employee's user account's activity following its compromise showed that certain software databases were accessed. These databases contained personal information.

We serve as general counsel for OHS. Its address and telephone number are:

Ohio Historical Society, d/b/a Ohio History Connection
800 E. 17th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211
(614) 297-2300

One (1) affected person resides in Maryland. Because this individual is at risk of breach of personal information, we believe that OHS is required to provide them with notice.

One (1) person with an address in Maryland was among those whose data may have been accessed. Like Maryland, Ohio requires that OHS provide notification of the breach to those who may be

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affected within 45 days of the discovery of the breach. As a result, OHS intends to send notification substantially in the form that is attached on April 12, 2024.

Please contact me if you need further information.

Very Truly Yours,

/s/ Kyle T. Anderson

Kyle T. Anderson



Return to Ohio History Connection
800 E. 17th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211

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<<To the Estate of:>>
<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>
<<Address1>>
<<Address2>>
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>

April 12, 2024

Re: NOTICE OF DATA BREACH

Dear <<Estate of>> <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>,

We are writing to let you know of a data security breach involving Ohio History Connection's (OHC) computer systems and databases. Because this breach has possibly exposed personally identifiable information, we wanted to inform you as soon as possible of steps to protect your identity.

What happened?

In February, cybercriminals gained access to an OHC employee's user account. A review of the employee's user account's activity following its compromise showed that certain software databases were accessed. These databases contained personal information. Your personal information may now be accessible to those who may be looking for it.

How did this happen?

In most cases, access to a user account may be gained through phishing emails that contain links to a malicious website that looks like an official corporate site. Users enter their credentials thinking that they need to authenticate.

Another phishing strategy tricks users into running malicious scripts or executables on their devices. Microsoft Office macros are commonly used for this attack. After a user opens a malicious document, the macro downloads malware. The malware might be a keylogger to capture credentials. Or it might install a rootkit that gives an attacker remote access to the user's local device.

What information was involved and who was impacted?

Names, addresses, email addresses, signatures, dates of birth, employer names, phone numbers, self-images, Social Security numbers, COVID vaccine statuses, and allergy disclosures of individuals could have been accessed. No credit card information was accessed or stolen as part of this breach. However, cybercriminals may have gained access to W-9 reports, wire information, and other records revealing the names and personal Social Security numbers of vendors who contracted to provide services to OHC. In total, the information of 85 individuals has potentially been exposed.

What we are doing to prevent this from happening again?

OHC has retained a forensic IT consulting firm to assist in determining the extent of the data breach. The compromised user account was disabled and OHC has implemented new security systems, features and measures intended to reduce its vulnerability to future attacks and ensure no personally identifiable information is ever accessed again.

What you can do?

Please also be wary of solicitations from those who may call you and offer their services. Do not give your personal information to anyone who requests it (online or over the phone) under the guise of helping you protect your personal information.

A list of state attorneys general in the states where affected persons live is included in this notification. Here is contact information for the Federal Trade Commission:

Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20580
www.ftc.gov
(202) 362-2222

You can also contact the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse www.privacyrights.org.

Further, if you suspect that your identity has been stolen or that your personal information is being used, you should contact the national credit reporting agencies:

Equifax Credit Information Services, LLC
PO Box 740241
Atlanta, GA 30374
www.equifax.com
(800) 525-6285

TransUnion Consumer Relations
PO Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016-2000
www.transunion.com
(800) 680-7289

Experian National Consumer
Assistance
PO Box 4500
Allen, TX
www.experian.com
(888) 397-3742

You can have the credit reporting agencies place a hold on the provision of your credit information, and can obtain from them a report on your credit. You are entitled to receive one free credit report from each of the three national credit reporting agencies once per year. To request a copy of your free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call (877) 322-8228.

How can I learn more?

Should you have further questions or concerns regarding this matter or the protections available to you, again, please contact Ohio History Connection at breach@ohiohistory.org.

We sincerely apologize for this incident and regret all the inconvenience it causes you. Please know we greatly value your support of the Ohio History Connection.

Thank you,

Megan Wood



Executive Director and CEO
Ohio History Connection

Charles R. Moses



President, Board of Trustees
Ohio History Connection

List of State Attorneys General

Kentucky

700 Capital Avenue, Suite 118
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
502-696-5300
KyOAGOR@ky.gov

Maryland

200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
410-576-6300
idtheft@oag.state.md.us

Ohio

30 E. Broad St., 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
800-282-0515
AGOCARES@OhioAGO.gov.

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Harrisburg, PA 17120
717-787-3391
info@attorneygeneral.gov

Texas

300 W. 15th Street
Austin, TX 78701
512-463-2100