



27 E. Home St. Westerville, OH | www.groupeleven.com | 614.827.9400

Yahoo Email Data Breach Affects Around 500 Million Users

Yahoo recently made the public aware of an email data breach which occurred in 2014. This data breach affected at least 500 million user accounts. It remains unclear why the announcement was made two years after the event occurred. They are encouraging all users to change their passwords as well as their security questions and answers.

Hack, or no hack, it is best practice to change your passwords periodically, even if you do not see suspicious activity in your account. Just like in this Yahoo announcement, the public is not always notified immediately when a data breach happens. Because of this, it is important to change passwords frequently.

Below are some guidelines for password management.

- Go Directly Through the Email Service Provider**
To ensure you are not falling for spam, go directly through the email service provider's settings to make any account changes (in this case, go through Yahoo Account Settings). Do not follow an emailed instruction list with hyperlinks explaining how to change your password, as this could be a trap.
- Never Use the Same Password**
Do not use the same password for multiple sites. Password managers, like LastPass (www.lastpass.com), are a simple way to securely manage your multiple logins.
- Create Strong Passwords**
Make your passwords unique and complex. Most password managers include a feature that will create hard-to-hack passwords for you to use.
- Turn on 2-step Verification**
Many sites, including Yahoo, have 2-step verification available to boost security for your account. The 2-step verification will send a code to your phone that you will have to enter before accessing your account.
- Keep an Eye Out**
Watch for unusual activity on your account. Do not open suspicious emails. Avoid clicking on hyperlinks or opening attachments within emails you do not trust.

GroupEleven takes security seriously and offers security analysis and training for our clients. If you are interested, please contact support@groupeleven.com or (614) 827-9400, option 2.