

Marriott says new data breach affects 5.2 million guests

March 31 2020, by Dee-Ann Durbin



This April 20, 2011 file photo shows Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront in Portland, Ore. Marriott says guests' names, loyalty account information and other personal details may have been accessed in the second major data breach to hit the company in less than two years. The world's largest hotel company says on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, approximately 5.2 million guests may have been affected. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer, File)

Marriott says guests' names, loyalty account information and other personal details may have been accessed in the second major data breach to hit the company in less than two years.

Marriott said Tuesday approximately 5.2 million guests worldwide may have been affected. The information taken may have included names, addresses, phone numbers, birthdays, loyalty information for linked companies like airlines and room preferences. Marriott said it's still investigating but it doesn't believe credit card information, passport numbers or driver's license information was accessed.

Marriott said it noticed an unexpected amount of guest information was accessed at the end of February using the login credentials of two employees at a franchised property. The [company](#) said it believes the activity began in mid-January.

Marriott has disabled those logins and is assisting authorities in their investigation. The company didn't say whether the employees whose logins were used were suspected.

In November 2018, Marriott announced a massive data breach in which hackers accessed [information](#) on as many as 383 million guests. In that case, Marriott said unencrypted passport numbers for at least 5.25 million guests were accessed, as well as [credit card information](#) for 8.6 million guests. The affected hotel brands were operated by Starwood before it was acquired by Marriott in 2016.

The FBI led the investigation of that data theft, and investigators suspected the hackers were working on behalf of the Chinese Ministry of State Security, the rough equivalent of the CIA.

Marriott said Tuesday it has informed guests of the new data breach. The Bethesda, Maryland-based company is offering affected guests free

enrollment in a [personal information](#) monitoring service for up to one year.

"Marriott also remains committed to further strengthening its protections to detect and remediate incidents such as this in the future," the company said in a statement.

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