

AT&T notifies users of data breach and resets millions of passcodes

March 31 2024, by Matt O'brien



An AT&T sign is seen at a store in Pittsburgh, Monday, Jan. 30, 2023. AT&T said, Saturday, March 30, 2024, it has begun notifying millions of customers about the theft of personal data recently discovered online. Credit: AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar, File

AT&T said it has begun notifying millions of customers about the theft

of personal data recently discovered online.

The telecommunications giant said Saturday that a dataset found on the "[dark web](#)" contains information such as Social Security numbers for about 7.6 million current AT&T account holders and 65.4 million former account holders.

The company said it has already reset the passcodes of current users and will be communicating with [account](#) holders whose sensitive personal information was compromised.

It is not known if the data "originated from AT&T or one of its vendors," the company said in a statement. The compromised data is from 2019 or earlier and does not appear to include [financial information](#) or call history, it said. In addition to passcodes and Social Security numbers, it may include email and mailing addresses, phone numbers and birth dates.

While the data surfaced on a hacking forum nearly two weeks ago, it closely resembles a similar data breach that surfaced in 2021 but which AT&T never acknowledged, said cybersecurity researcher Troy Hunt.

"If they assess this and they made the wrong call on it, and we've had a course of years pass without them being able to notify impacted customers," then it's likely the company will soon face class action lawsuits, said Hunt, founder of an Australia-based website for warning people when their [personal information](#) has been exposed.

An AT&T spokesperson didn't immediately return a request for comment Saturday.

It is not the first crisis this year for the Dallas-based company. An outage in February temporarily [knocked out cellphone service](#) for thousands of

U.S. users. AT&T at the time [blamed the incident](#) on a technical coding error, not a malicious attack.

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