

Patelco makes minor restorations but no end near for crippling credit union cyber attack

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Patelco Credit Union, after a week of customer lockdowns, made minor restorations in online functions as it reels from an ongoing cyber attack targeting its systems and databases.

By July 5, Dublin-based Patelco's CEO Erin Mendez tried to assure customers "your money is safe and secure" while patrons remained locked out of their [online accounts](#), unable to check their balances or see direct deposits.

Cyber security specialists "have validated and greenlighted our core systems," Mendez wrote in a July 3 update. She assured customers they can now use Venmo and PayPal payments, and that borrowers would not be penalized or incur fees because of missed payments during the system attack. The credit union also opened up its phone support lines on July 4 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to take calls regarding customers' accounts.

This follows the initial June 29 notice from Patelco detailing a lockdown of customers' accounts, barring anyone from accessing any information about their statement balances, online payments, direct deposits, transfers or other daily functions.

Since then, Social Security payments have bounced, customers have incurred late fees for missed payments and many have complained of a lack of communication from Patelco.

"I know this continues to cause our members frustration and many of you have questions," Mendez wrote. "We hear your concerns and are working around the clock to address them. Our team is committed to doing everything we can to support our members through this difficult situation."

It is still unclear when the credit union's systems will be fully operational, how much of the credit union's over \$9 billion in assets was affected and whether or not customers' confidential information was targeted and compromised or stolen.

Media inquiries from this [news organization](#) were returned by Rina

Johnson, Patelco's Vice president of marketing, only to say that the credit union continues to release all updates online via its dedicated webpage about the security attack. She referred to the latest update as "good news."

With rent and bill [payments](#) beginning to stack up past due for many of Patelco's half a million clients statewide, customers are left having to wait in lines at many of Patelco's 37 branches in California. Others may have resorted to going to a Western Union or other check cashing place to take out money or send a payment to a [credit](#) card company or landlord.

Patelco has said customers can still write checks, but they have no way of checking how much money they have in their accounts.

No other information on the Patelco attack was immediately available on July 5.

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