
Hacked: 92 Million Account Details for DNA Testing Service MyHeritage

Posted by [Derek A. Lackey, Editor](#) / June 06, 2018

On Monday MyHeritage announced a security researcher had uncovered tens of millions of account details for recent customers, including email addresses and hashed passwords.

When you sign up to a website handling sensitive information, perhaps a medical service or social network, one of the basic things you're probably hoping for is that the site can keep control of its users' data. Unfortunately for customers of MyHeritage, a genealogy and DNA testing service, a researcher uncovered 92 million account details related to the company sitting on a server, according to an announcement from MyHeritage.



Image: MyHeritage

The data relates to users who signed up to MyHeritage up to and including October 26, 2017, the date of the breach, the announcement adds.

Users of the Israeli-based company can create family trees and search through historical records to try and uncover their ancestry. In January 2017, Israeli media reported the company has some 35 million family trees on its website.

In all, the breach impacted 92,283,889 users, according to MyHeritage's disclosure.

On Monday, MyHeritage says the company's chief information security officer

received a message from a security researcher that he had found a file named myheritage containing email addresses and hashed password, on a private server outside of MyHeritage, the announcement reads. Password hashes are cryptographic representations of passwords, meaning companies dont have to store the actual password itself, although, depending on the algorithm used, hackers may still be able to crack them.

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