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Cybersecurity Tip of The Week- 12/5/18

Bad Guys Love Marriott: 500 Million Data Breach Is Phishing Heaven

For about 327 million of the 500, the breached data includes names, mailing addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, passport numbers, Starwood Preferred Guest ("SPG") account information, date of birth, gender, arrival and departure information, reservation date, and communication preferences.

The company said in a statement that it discovered "unauthorized access" to the database, which extended back until 2014. In some cases, payment card numbers and expiration dates were also taken, but Marriott said it's unclear whether the hackers have information to decrypt the payment card numbers.

Marriott said it has set up a website for consumers impacted by the hack, at info.starwoodhotels.com, and a call center. "Call volume may be high, and we appreciate your patience," the company said. Starwood is sending an email to all addresses affected.

Here is where the bad guys come in. *You can expect a raft of phishing attacks that try to exploit this data breach, either by using just scare tactics, or by using actual data from the breach itself to make it look as real as possible.*

Think Before You Click!