

JOURNAL ENTRY 3

Data breaches are incidents that happen when unauthorized persons gain access to a computer system and compromise confidential information. It affects the confidentiality, integrity and availability of data stored in a system. Data breaches can lead to risks such as reputational damage, downtime, financial loss and lawsuit. This journal entry explores how researchers might use the information about data breaches from PrivacyRights.org to gain understanding of the topic. And the branches of social science that would benefit the most from this site.

PrivacyRight.org is a website that provides access to valuable information, it features a comprehensive archival database covering data breaches in the US from 2005 to 2018.

The Data Breach Chronology on this website includes data from publicly available, government-maintained data sources. Researchers can find the list of organizations affected, the types of data breaches they experienced and the nature of the compromised data useful for gaining better understanding of this topic.

Researchers might use this information to conduct Data Analysis. They can focus on various aspects such as the frequency of breaches, their impacts on organizations, the types of breaches that occurred, industry-specific trends, and the effectiveness of organizations' response. For example, researchers in educational and medical institutions may analyze the number of data breaches reported each year, the type of data exposed, the impact on individuals or institutes, and identify which kind of information were primarily targeted and why. They will also investigate when the incidents were detected and reported, as well as the steps taken to mitigate the impact.

Researchers might also use the information as case studies to better understand vulnerabilities and responses to these incidents. Tailoring their focus to organizational interest, they'll find out how the breaches occur, how the specific organization reacted, and what measures to put

in place to prevent future incidents. Each data breach differs in some way; how it occurred, its impact and the recovery. By studying their uniqueness, researchers can identify the weaknesses exploited by the intruder such as unpatched software or social engineering tactics. For example, a data breach at a bank might reveal how intruders exploited unpatched software or inadequate network security control. Researchers analyze the financial losses, lawsuits and reputational damage, also identify areas of improvement and best practices.

The branches that would benefit from a site hosting this information are Sociology, Psychology and Economics.

Sociology

Whenever a data breach occurs in an organization, clients lose trust in them. They begin to question the organizations competency in protecting their confidential information. For example, if a data breach occurs at an hospital, patients will be worried about their health and personal data exposed and may consider filing a lawsuit against the institute. Individuals often alter their behavior after hearing about data breaches, taking steps to protect themselves. The lack of trust in the security of digital systems can lead to reluctance in using online services that require providing personal information.

Psychology

Data Breaches also have psychological impact on individuals, it evokes fear and prompts changes in their behavior. The mere thought that their personal information has been compromised can leave individuals feeling unsettled and vulnerable. This can lead to loss of trust and confidence in them. Additionally, individuals may feel powerless in protecting their data, contributing to increased stress levels.

Economics

Data breaches have significant financial effects on both organizations and clients. Organizations face financial loss which include lawsuits, investigating the breach, and fixing

security systems. Additionally, the loss of trust from clients affects sales and revenue. The damage done on an organization's reputation makes it difficult to retain or attract new clients.

References

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