

HOW MUCH ARE YOU WILLING TO GAMBLE? MGM Data Breaches

In February 2020, MGM Resorts International suffered a massive data breach, exposing the personal information of over 10.6 million guests. This incident sent shockwaves through the business world, emphasizing the critical importance of data security. Now, in September 2023, MGM Resorts International once again finds itself at the center of a data breach, reminding us all of the ongoing challenges in safeguarding customer data. This article examines both breaches and offers insights on how businesses can protect their data.

The February 2020 MGM Breach

The 2020 MGM breach was a result of a cloud-based server misconfiguration that exposed guest data, including names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. Although it didn't compromise sensitive financial information or passwords, the incident highlighted the vulnerability of even large corporations to cyberattacks.

The September 2023 MGM Hacking

Fast forward to September 2023, and MGM Resorts International faced yet another cyber incident. In this breach, a sophisticated hacking group infiltrated the company's systems, compromising even more sensitive data, including credit card details, passport numbers, and travel itineraries of thousands of guests. This serves as a stark reminder that cyber threats continue to evolve and grow in sophistication.

Lessons for Businesses from Both Breaches

Regular Security Audits: The MGM breaches underscore the importance of regularly auditing and assessing an organization's security infrastructure. Identifying vulnerabilities before cybercriminals do can prevent data breaches.

Data Encryption: Encrypting sensitive data both in transit and at rest is crucial. In the event of a breach, encrypted data is significantly harder for cybercriminals to exploit.

Employee Training: Cybersecurity is not solely an IT concern. All employees should be educated about the importance of strong passwords, recognizing phishing attempts, and following security protocols.

Incident Response Plan: Develop a comprehensive incident response plan that outlines steps to take in the event of a breach. A well-prepared response can minimize damage and protect customer trust.

Third-Party Vendors: When using third-party vendors, ensure they have strong security measures in place. Review their security practices and agreements to hold them accountable for data protection.

Data Minimization: Collect only the data you need for business purposes. The less data you store, the less attractive your organization becomes to cybercriminals.

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA): Implement MFA wherever possible. This adds an extra layer of security, making it harder for unauthorized users to access your systems.

Regular Updates and Patch Management: Keep software and systems up-to-date with security patches. Many breaches occur due to exploiting known vulnerabilities that could have been patched.

Monitoring and Detection: Invest in cybersecurity tools that can detect anomalies and unusual activities in real-time. The quicker you can identify a breach, the faster you can respond.

Conclusion

The recurring breaches at MGM Resorts International serve as a stark reminder that data security is an ongoing challenge. Businesses must take proactive steps to protect customer data and invest in robust cybersecurity measures. Protecting customer data isn't just a legal requirement, it's essential for maintaining trust, reputation, and long-term success. By staying vigilant, prepared, and secure, organizations can reduce their risk of becoming the next headline in an ever-evolving cyber landscape.

Two full weeks after the attack stopped operations, experts are speculating that this hack could be costing MGM between \$4M - \$8M per day.

**How secure is your business?
Is that a gamble you are willing to take?**

Employee Spotlight!



Kelly C.
*Service Delivery
Manager*

What do you like doing in your spare time? *I enjoy DIY home projects or doing something crafty / creative, spending time and facetime calls with family, especially my teenage nephews and exercise to de-stress.*

What is a fun fact about yourself?

If I won the lottery and could live anywhere in the world, it would be on the west side of Maui, Hawaii. I fell in love with Maui on my honeymoon and love sun, sand, beautiful sunsets, low humidity and Maui has all of these and many more to offer.



What is something on your bucket list? *One thing on my list is riding in a hot air balloon. Letting the wind speed dictate where the balloon travels has always intrigued me.*

Favorite Fall activity? *My favorite activity is leaf-peeping. Taking scenic drives to see the leaves changing and taking photos.*



What is your favorite Halloween candy? *There are so many favorites, but candy corn is my favorite. (Yes I know, I may be the only person who likes them.)*

Describe yourself using 5 emojis:



Team Celebrations!



Jessica
*October 10
RWK Anniversary*

Denis
*October 13
Birthday*



Rico
*October 28
Birthday*

Beth
*October 28
Birthday*



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