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Data Breaches Rose By 164% in First Half Of 2017

Data protection systems were a sieve in the first half of this year, according to a study by Gemalto, a digital security firm based in Europe.

Gemalto's Breach Level Index shows there were 918 data breaches during this period, resulting in 1.9 billion data records being exposed — a “staggering” 164% increase over the last six months of 2016. This presumably included email addresses. A large portion of these losses resulted from the 22 largest data breaches — each one of those involved more than one million compromised records, Gemalto says. Of all breaches, 74% came from malicious outsiders -- an increase of 23%. However, these accounted for only 13% of all stolen or compromised records.

North America was the hardest-hit area, suffering 86% of the breaches — an increase of 23%. The number of affected records jumped by 201%.