Issued 4/20/17

Hackers Dump 1.7 Million Snapchat User Data on Dark Web

Anonymous Indian hackers are taking revenge on Snapchat's CEO and claim to have leaked a database containing the credentials of 1.7 million users. The hackers are particularly upset after Evan Spiegel, Snapchat CEO, reportedly made a rather nasty remark regarding expansion plans.

According to claims that emerged last week as an ex-employee filed a lawsuit against the company, Spiegel shut down suggestions to expand to certain international markets, saying Snapchat is for "rich people" and didn't want to expand into poor countries like India or Spain. The allegations were slammed by the company. "Obviously Snapchat is for everyone! It's available worldwide to download for free. These words were written by a disgruntled former employee. We are grateful for our Snapchat community in India and around the world," Snap said. After a widespread boycott campaign was launched, demanding Spiegel to apologize, hackers did their part. In fact, the Indian hackers claim the vulnerability they discovered in Snapchat's database allowed them to siphon details on 1.7 million users sometime last year.

To make matters worse, the database has been leaked on the dark web. It is a rather odd situation with people getting upset over unverified statements that were supposedly made by the Snap CEO, especially given the source of the allegation and the situation they are in - fired a few weeks ago, suing the company. Snap further said that the employee who made

the claim was fired for poor performance, which should throw even more doubt over the situation. The boycott has spread like wildfire, however, and it continues to do so.

Some reports indicate Snapchat has about 4 million users in India. It is unclear, at this point, just where the 1.7 million users targeted by the leak are from and whether Indian users were left out.