



Issued 11/23/17

Hackers Are Using Uber's 57 Million Account Data Breach to Steal Passwords

On Tuesday Bloomberg reported that ride-sharing giant Uber covered up a 2016 breach of 57 million accounts, including names, email addresses and phone numbers of 50 million riders. Now, hackers are capitalizing on that news by sending potential Uber users specially crafted emails designed to steal their password. Meredith told The Daily Beast the email was a demonstration of what phishing messages related to the Uber breach might look like, but a number of people have reported the same sort of emails in the wild. "You may have heard that Uber was compromised last year. We are sorry to inform you that your information was, unfortunately, confirmed to be part of the breach. Please click below to confirm you've received this message and change your password," the email continues, complete with fairly convincing Uber branding spread throughout the message.

The email itself comes from "noreply@uberapp.co," according to Meredith's screenshot, following a similar style of automated alert emails. The phishing email even gives some half-decent security advice, presumably in an attempt to appear authentic: "As a security precaution, you'll want to change your passwords on all other online accounts you utilize, to prevent any further damage," it adds. One part of the message may immediately ring some alarm bells though: Uber is apparently teaming up with its main rival Lyft, and offering affected customer's \$50 worth of Lyft credit. "Just received an email from what

is claiming to be Uber Canada apologizing for security breach and offering \$50 credit to Lyft. Quite confident this is a phishing scam as it asks for password change,” one user apparently from Toronto tweeted on Wednesday. As Bloomberg reported, Uber paid the hackers \$100,000 to delete the stolen data. The New York Times reported that Uber, after tracking down the hackers, pushed them to sign nondisclosure agreements.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman has opened an investigation into the incident. Hackers who successfully obtain an Uber customer’s password could do several things. They might decide to take a load of expensive trips on the victim’s account — hacked Uber accounts have been used in China, Europe, the U.S. and elsewhere. Or, the hacker could sell the stolen details on the established, underground market of Uber accounts. As Motherboard first reported back in 2015, Uber accounts are available on the dark web for as little as \$1 each. Hackers even penned guides on how to more effectively use the accounts without getting caught, and, after a slew of other vendors entered the trade, the price of Uber details crashed to just 40 cents.