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Hackers Take 5 Million Payment Cards from Saks, Lord & Taylor Stores

Gemini Advisory has discovered that a JokerStash online crime syndicate, Fin7, is planning to sell over 5 million payment cards stolen from the databases of 83 Saks Fifth Avenue stores (including Off 5th) and the entire network of Lord & Taylor. The crooks are 'only' selling 125,000 of the cards on the Dark Web as of this writing, but the rest are expected to reach the black market in the months ahead. The breaches reportedly started in May 2017, but could be continuing to this day. JokerStash is well-known. The hacker outfit has been connected to a string of data breaches including Chipotle, Omni Hotels and Whole Foods. It has a pattern of dribbling out cards to both maximize their sale potential and to avoid tipping off bank investigators trying to pinpoint the source of a given breach. News of the hacking comes at a particularly bad time. In March 2017, BuzzFeed News learned that Saks had been storing customer data (though not payment info) in plain text on its servers -- it's bound to be embarrassing for the retailer to suffer a more serious breach just over a year later, even though the two incidents aren't likely connected. HBC may need to bend over backwards to regain the trust of Saks shoppers who've been burned twice.