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## **Instagram Exposes Passwords Stored in Plain Text**

Instagram, the multimedia sharing platform owned by Facebook and the home of roughly 1 billion monthly active users during June 2018, disclosed that they leaked the passwords of individuals who used the 'Download Your Data' feature on public computers. Ironically, the 'Download Your Data' tool was introduced by Instagram in April to allow their users to quickly get an idea of all the data they shared on the social platform, as a response to the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), enacted on May 25, 2018. However, in a twisted turn of fate, the tool which should've helped Instagram's users get an overview of all the data Instagram collected actually managed to reveal their passwords in plain text as reported by The Information [link]. "If you want a copy of everything you've shared on Instagram, you can request a download of your data in a machine readable (JSON) format," says Instagram's support website. "You'll need your Instagram account password to request this information." To be more exact, all users who employed 'Download your Data' to download an archive of all the data they shared on Instagram had their password exposed by being included in the tool's URL. Even though Instagram did not say anything about how the passwords were exposed in plain text in the first place, it's easy to conclude and evident that they were stored without being encrypted given that no programming bug would accidentally decrypt passwords and then add them to URLs.