

RETAIL

Saks customers' credit card data stolen in breach

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More than a hundred thousand credit card numbers have already been released with more likely to follow. Image credit: Saks Fifth Avenue

By STAFF REPORTS

A group of cybercriminals have stolen more than 5 million credit card numbers from customers at Saks Fifth Avenue and Lord & Taylor in a major security breach.

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The group known as Fin7 has claimed responsibility, listing the credit card numbers for sale online at a popular hub for selling stolen credit card information. Part of Hudson's Bay Company, Saks and Lord & Taylor are two of the most popular high-end department stores in the country, making this crime a huge liability for both the retailers and the affected customers.

"We will offer those impacted free identity protection services, including credit and Web monitoring," Saks Fifth Avenue said in a statement. "Affected customers will not be liable for fraudulent charges."

"We are working rapidly with leading data security investigators and also are coordinating with law enforcement authorities and the payment card companies."

Stolen data

On Mar. 28, cybersecurity company Gemini Advisory noticed a massive influx of stolen credit card information flooding a site called JokerStash, where such information is often sold.

After consulting with financial security companies, Gemini has confirmed that the majority of the credit card information was from customers of Saks Fifth Avenue and Lord & Taylor.

Gemini notes that the credit card information was most likely stolen from the retailers' physical locations, meaning that online shoppers are likely not affected.



Both retailers' effected are owned by HBC. Image credit: Lord & Taylor

As of press time, around 130,000 instances of credit card information are currently being traded, though more are expected to be released over time.

The breach is estimated to have taken place some time between May of 2017 and now. Anyone who shopped in-store at either retailer within that time may be affected.

Both retailers are owned by Hudson's Bay Company, although it is not clear if the retailers' relationship played a role in the breach.

The two were likely targeted due to their nature as upscale department stores, which would likely have affluent customers.

While security is on consumers' minds more so than ever, retailers and companies are still drastically behind in taking steps to combat cyber threats such as ransomware and malware.

A survey from ControlScan shows that only 69 percent of businesses have a formal data backup and recovery process in place. The remaining 31 percent of businesses are extremely vulnerable to an attack and security threats ([see story](#)).

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