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Facebook hacked again and again: Social media giant admits security breach affecting 50 million accounts

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 Facebook hacked: Social media giant admits security breach affecting 50 million accounts

FILE PHOTO. © Jaap Arriens / Global Look Press



Facebook has admitted having a “security issue” with nearly 50 million accounts which had their “access tokens” compromised. The social media giant has reset tokens for another 40 million accounts as a “precaution.”

The issue affected nearly 50 million accounts, which would require users to re-enter their passwords. The security issue was discovered by the company’s engineers on Tuesday. Hackers have been apparently able to fetch the so-called “*access tokens*” – digital keys, which allow a user to stay logged into Facebook and to not re-enter their passwords each time they use the application.

“Our investigation is still in its early stages. But it’s clear that attackers exploited a vulnerability in Facebook’s code that impacted “View As”, a feature that lets people see what their own profile looks like to someone else,” the tech giant said in a statement.

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The vulnerability has been already fixed, according to Facebook, and the “View As” feature has been temporarily disabled.

“This attack exploited the complex interaction of multiple issues in our code. It stemmed from a change we made to our video uploading feature in July 2017, which impacted "View As." The attackers not only needed to find this vulnerability and use it to get an access token, they then had to pivot from that account to others to steal more tokens,” Facebook stated.



Damage done by the attack is yet to be evaluated, it remains unclear whether the affected accounts *“were misused or any*

information accessed." Source of the attack and who was behind it also remain unidentified, according to Facebook.

Sara Fischer  @sarafischer · 9m 

1/ FB security call

Zuckerberg prepared remarks: "They did try to query profile information through our API ... but we don't know if any private information (address, etc) was accessed that way."

Sara Fischer  @sarafischer

2/ Rosen

What does it mean for the 50 million to be affected? "For almost 50 million accounts we've seen the access coins were taken."

10:18 AM - Sep 28, 2018

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Replying to @sarafischer

3/ Which law enforcement bodies are you working with?

Rosen: "We're working with the FBI. With law enforcement we will update when we learn about these interactions,"

Sara Fischer  @sarafischer

4/ Zuck

"We're taking it really seriously. We have a major security effort at the company that hardens all our services and investigates issues like this. In this case, I'm glad that we found this and we're able to the secure accounts."