



POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON INDIVIDUALS

Data Security

POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON INDIVIDUALS

Data breaches have hit the headlines recently with some of the biggest breaches occurring in the past few years. LinkedIn, Tumblr, Yahoo, Three Mobile, and Tesco Bank all hitting the headlines as victims of cybercrime.

The data that is stolen can lead to problems for the individuals whose data is now in someone else's hands.

Some data breaches, depending on the data that is compromised, would be considered more serious than others. If, for example, one of your online accounts was compromised and it only contained your first name and your date of birth, that might not be a big issue to you.

However, if your Facebook account was compromised and every message you had ever sent, and every picture you had ever uploaded, was now part of a data breach, and in the hands of someone you do not know, that might be a serious problem, depending on the nature of your private messages and pictures.

POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON INDIVIDUALS

In July 2015, a group calling itself "The Impact Team" stole the user data of Ashley Madison, a commercial website billed as enabling extramarital affairs.

The group copied personal information about the site's user base and threatened to release users' names and personally identifying information if Ashley Madison was not immediately shut down.

On 18 and 20 August, the group leaked more than 25 gigabytes of company data, including user details. Because of the site's policy of not deleting users' personal information – including real names, home addresses, search history and credit card transaction records – many users feared being publicly shamed.

Following the release of the data, some people on the internet went through the databases to try to find people who were members, and planned to publicly humiliate them. It was later confirmed that at least two people who were members of the website had [committed suicide](#).

URL used: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-34044506>



OTHER EXAMPLES

While this is an extreme example of how a data breach can have a negative impact on people, other implications could be:

- Financial loss
- Financial reputation
- Damaged personal reputation
- Loss of employment
- Marital breakdown
- Stress/illness

Now do Task 15

TASK

