Quora announces data breach [1]

December 4, 2018

Approximately 100 million Quora users data has been accessed in this breach. Data that may have been accessed includes:

- Account information, e.g. name, email address, encrypted (hashed) password, data imported from linked networks when authorized by users
- Public content and actions, e.g. questions, answers, comments, upvotes
- Non-public content and actions, e.g. answer requests, downvotes, direct messages (note that a low percentage of Quora users have sent or received such messages)
- Questions and answers that were written anonymously are NOT affected by this breach as we do not store the identities of people who post anonymous content

Quora will be reaching out to all affected users via email, see email below, with more information. If you have a Quora account and are interested obtaining a copy of all of your data you can send this request to privacy[AT]quora.com. Further actionable steps can be seen in their FAQ https://help.quora.com/hc/en-us/articles/360020212652 [2].

The Duke IT Security Offices would like to remind users that we strongly advise against password reuse and if you have a Quora account and you share those credentials with any other sites/services, it would be best to change those as soon as possible.

For information about creating stronger passwords see https://security.duke.edu/passwords [3].
Dear User,

We are writing to let you know that we recently discovered that some user data was compromised as a result of unauthorized access to our systems by a malicious third party. We are very sorry for any concern or inconvenience this may cause. We are working rapidly to investigate the situation further and take the appropriate steps to prevent such incidents in the future.

What Happened

On Friday we discovered that some user data was compromised by a third party who gained unauthorized access to our systems. We're still investigating the precise causes and in addition to the work being conducted by our internal security teams, we have retained a leading digital forensics and security firm to assist us. We have also notified law enforcement officials.

While the investigation is still ongoing, we have already taken steps to contain the incident, and our efforts to protect our users and prevent this type of incident from happening in the future are our top priority as a company.

What information was involved

The following information of yours may have been compromised:

- Account and user information, e.g. name, email, IP, user ID, encrypted password, user account settings, personalization data
- Public actions and content including drafts, e.g. questions, answers, comments, blog posts, upvotes
- Data imported from linked networks when authorized by you, e.g. contacts, demographic information, interests, access tokens (now invalidated)

Questions and answers that were written anonymously are not affected by this breach as we do not store the identities of people who post anonymous content.

What we are doing

While our investigation continues, we're taking additional steps to improve our security:

- We’re in the process of notifying users whose data has been compromised.
- Out of an abundance of caution, we are logging out all Quora users who may have been affected, and, if they use a password as their authentication method, we are invalidating their passwords.
- We believe we’ve identified the root cause and taken steps to address the issue, although our investigation is ongoing and we’ll continue to make security improvements.

We will continue to work both internally and with our outside experts to gain a full understanding of what happened and take any further action as needed.

What you can do

We have included more detailed information about specific actions you may take here.

Conclusion

It is our responsibility to make sure things like this don’t happen, and we failed to meet that responsibility. We recognize that in order to maintain user trust, we need to work very hard to make sure this does not happen again. There’s little hope of sharing and growing the world’s knowledge if those doing so cannot feel safe and secure, and cannot trust that their information will remain private. We are continuing to work very hard to remedy the situation, and we hope over time to prove that we are worthy of your trust.

The Quora Team

Source URL: https://security.duke.edu/news-alerts/quora-announces-data-breach

Links
[3] https://security.duke.edu/passwords
[4] ... dc&r=IvffOdbOf2YXE5ZJPl3LGQ&m=3-HdwQQ7S4MX2eXld2YVRghjEnfiFLa-Si2Sy0RVzcs&s=Ilbegjw9xvs6VSVWnXRZ-w0WN7Wh6v3PfxhMuPoL-f0&e=