

Canada police nab young man in Heartbleed data theft

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A Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officer checks a security perimeter in front of the Parliament building in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada on February 19, 2009

Federal police said Wednesday they have arrested and charged a 19-year-old man in the theft of 900 Canadian taxpayers' data, which was made vulnerable by the "Heartbleed" bug.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said Stephen Arthuro Solis-Reyes was arrested at his London, Ontario home on Tuesday without incident.

He is scheduled to appear in court on Thursday to face charges of mischief and unauthorized use of a computer to steal data from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)'s website.

"It is believed that Solis-Reyes was able to extract private information held by the CRA by exploiting the [security vulnerability](#) known as the Heartbleed Bug," the RCMP said in a statement.

The suspect was tracked down within four days after what CRA Assistant Commissioner Gilles Michaud had described as a serious security breach.

Police said computer equipment was seized at the suspect's home, and that the investigation is still ongoing.

The Canada Revenue Agency said 900 social insurance numbers—personal nine-digit codes required for working or accessing government benefits in Canada—had been stolen last week by "someone exploiting the Heartbleed [vulnerability](#)."

Its website was shuttered for several days over concerns about the Heartbleed bug.

It was rebooted over the weekend after a patch was installed.

The recently-discovered flaw in online-data scrambling software OpenSSL allows hackers to eavesdrop on online communications, steal data, impersonate websites and unlock encrypted data.

OpenSSL is commonly used to protect passwords, [credit card numbers](#) and other data sent via the Internet.

More than half of websites use the software, but not all versions have the same vulnerability, according to [heartbleed.com](#).

Cybersecurity firm Fox-It estimates that the vulnerability has existed for about two years, since the version of OpenSSL at issue was released.

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