

18% of US Internet users had data stolen, survey finds

April 14 2014



A picture shows binary code reflected from a computer screen in a woman's eye on October 22, 2012

Some 18 percent of US Internet users have had important personal data such as bank account information stolen and the problem appears to be getting worse, a survey showed Monday.

The Pew Research Center study carried out in January showed a sharp increase from mid-2013, when 11 percent reported being victimized.

The survey also found 21 percent reported having email or social network accounts compromised, the same percentage as last year.

The findings come amid growing concern over the "Heartbleed" vulnerability discovered earlier this month, and months after US retail giant Target acknowledged millions of customers may have had [payment cards](#) compromised.

"As online Americans have become ever more engaged with online life, their concerns about the amount of personal information available about them online have shifted as well," the Pew researchers wrote.

"Internet users have become more worried about the amount of [personal information](#) available about them online—50 percent reported this concern in January 2014, up from 33 percent in 2009."

The report is based on a survey of 1,002 adults from January 23 to 26, including 820 Internet users. The margin of sampling error for the Internet users is estimated at four percentage points.

© 2014 AFP

Citation: 18% of US Internet users had data stolen, survey finds (2014, April 14) retrieved 30 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-04-internet-users-stolen-survey.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.