

# France's Orange hit by hackers data raid

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In the latest incident, which was detected on April 18, the hackers acquired names, email addresses, mobile and fixed line numbers, names

of mobile and Internet operators and the dates of birth of current and potential customers.

"The data recovered could be used to contact those concerned by email, SMS or by phone, particularly for phishing purposes," the group warned in a statement issued this week.

A spokesman for the phone operator told AFP late Tuesday the attack affected 1.3 million people.

"Phishing" attacks involve fake emails purporting to be by a trustworthy entity sent to people to trick them into revealing sensitive information such as passwords, user names or [credit card details](#).

In February, Orange announced that the personal data of 800,000 of its Internet clients had been stolen.

A spokesman said the group had delayed announcing the latest breach to allow for the scale of the data theft to be assessed and to ensure that the security gaps which allowed it had been closed.

Cyber criminals have targeted companies around the world in pursuit of personal details which could help them secure access to bank and other accounts.

In September, Vodafone Germany said a hacker had stolen the personal data of two million customers.

In 2006, T-Mobile also fell victim to hackers who stole the phone numbers and [personal details](#) of 17 million customers.

And Japan's Sony was hit in early 2011 when an attack on its Playstation Network compromised the security of the [personal data](#) of some 77

million users.

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