Hackers Steal Millions Of Minecraft Passwords

Hackers take millions of Minecraft passwords

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Hackers have accessed login data for more seven million Minecraft users on the site Lifeboat.

Lifeboat lets members run servers for customised, multiplayer maps for the smartphone edition of Minecraft.

Evidence suggests that stolen data such as email addresses and passwords is being provided by websites that trade in hacked files.

The study suggests that passwords were vulnerable to attack, and attackers could easily hack them.

Minimise damage

Information about the breach was given to an independent security expert Troy Hunt who said he received the list from a person who deals in stolen credentials. He was told by a variety of people that the data was being circulated through dark web sites.

Hunt claimed that the data was stolen in 2016, but the breach is only recently being discovered.

Passwords for Lifeboat accounts were washed however, he added, the algorithm used provided little protection.

Hashing is a method to scramble passwords so they aren't easily read if the data goes astray.

Often, he said that a Google search for a password that has been hashed would immediately return the correct plain text value. He added that well-known hacking tools could be able to automatize this process and accelerate the process.

"A significant portion of these passwords could be reverted to plain text within a short time," he said in a blog post about the breach.

He said that this can cause other security issues due to the fact that many people use the same passwords for multiple sites, so attackers could find out which password is being used to hack accounts on other websites.

In a statement to Motherboard, Lifeboat said it took action to mitigate the damage.

"When this happened in January, we decided the best option for our user was to quietly forcibly make a password reset without notifying hackers that they had limited time to take action," it said to the news site, adding that it has now adopted stronger hashing algorithms. KD76

It stated that it did not have any reports of anyone being hurt by this.

Mr Hunt was critical about the company's policy of "quietly" forcing the password reset. He said that the policy had left him "speechless".

Instead, he said, Lifeboat should have done much more to alert users to change passwords if they had the same one on other websites.

"How can we minimize the damage to our users?" is the first thing any business should think about after an incident of this kind. He added.

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