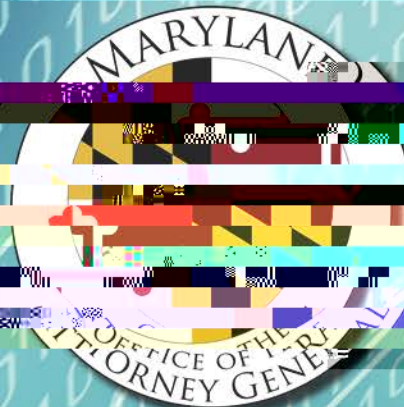


# DATA BREACHES

## FY 2018 SNAPSHOT

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

IDENTITY THEFT PROGRAM



JULY 1, 2018

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stolen. Approximately 10% (78) of the breach notifications were triggered because of an inadvertent sharing of personal identifying information by an employee with the wrong recipient via emailing, faxing, or mailing.

By far, this form of compromise led the list in FY 2018. Of the 821 breach notifications in FY 2018, 378 (46%) attributed a breach or exposure to unauthorized or improper access. The most common cases reported in this category involved current or former employees or vendors accessing personal identifying information that they had no legitimate need to access. When this occurs, it can reflect lapses in basic data security procedures; viz. the absence of controls tying data access to work role, of monitoring data access, and of procedures for ensuring that access is terminated when an employee leaves. It can also reflect the theft and illegitimate use of credentials properly belonging to others.

As a new threat, ransomware began to find mention in the major data breach reports in 2013. Ransomware captures data files and encrypts them, denying their use. Payment for the return of the decrypted files is typically demanded in a cryptocurrency, like Bitcoin. In FY 2018, a little over 4% (36) of the breach notifications received by the OAG identified ransomware as the cause of compromise.

## V. Steps to Protect Your Identity.

The Office of the Maryland Attorney General's website brings together important information about how Maryland residents can proactively protect themselves from identity theft or overcome the consequences of identity theft when they occur. This includes guides compiled by OAG as well as information provided by the Federal Trade Commission and other entities. These resources can be found at

<http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/IdentityTheft/default.aspx>

## VI. More Information

For questions about this report, please contact:

Office of the Attorney General  
Identify Theft Program  
200 Paul Place