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### TECHNOLOGY

# Sony Hack Exposed Personal Data of Hollywood Stars

Breach Includes Social Security Numbers for 47,000 Employees and Actors, Including Sylvester Stallone, Judd Apatow and Rebel Wilson



Sony Pictures Entertainment headquarters in Culver City, Calif. ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The hack at Sony Pictures Entertainment revealed far more personal information than previously believed, including the Social Security numbers of more than 47,000 current and former employees along with Hollywood celebrities like Sylvester Stallone.

On Thursday, Russian cybersecurity company Kaspersky Lab released a report noting the similarities between the Sony hack and last year's attacks on South Korea, though it didn't identify who was behind the incident. The researcher, Kurt Baumgartner, noted cyberattacks others have linked to North Korea are frequently carried out by made-up hacker groups no security researchers have heard of before, much like the Sony breach.

A spokesman for the Pyongyang government has expressed outrage over "The Interview," a Sony-produced Seth Rogen comedy set for release Dec. 25 that mocks North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un.

Sony Pictures hasn't released many specifics to the public or employees about the scope of the breach. In an email to staffers Tuesday, Chief Executive Michael Lynton and co-chairman Amy Pascal called the theft of documents and their subsequent release online "malicious criminal acts." The studio is offering one year of free credit monitoring and fraud protection to current and former employees.

The studio's lawyers are also trying to force websites to remove the data or the links to it. As with pirated movies and music, however, once data becomes available on file-sharing networks, it is virtually impossible to remove.

Current and former Sony employees have said they are infuriated at the leak of personal information and scared at what else may appear online. Some also questioned whether one year of fraud protection will be adequate as their Social Security numbers will presumably live on the Internet for many years.

A Sony spokesman declined to comment.

The breach at Sony has gained unusual attention in part because it has exposed so many details on the inner workings—salaries, healthcare records, office call lists—of employees at a famous company in a prominent industry.

Cybersecurity experts could recall no other breach where so much data on a high-profile company was made public in one data dump. Investigators say hackers often have access to large troves of data once they penetrate a company's digital perimeter. But the hackers may be seeking only one type of data, such as credit-card numbers, or don't publish everything they have stolen.

Mr. Feinman also said that companies appear more focused on preventing viruses from infecting their networks than on controlling the availability of sensitive information on computers. That has begun to change following leaks from former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden and data breaches at Target Corp. and other retailers.

“The No. 1 reason this happens is because companies have so much historical data and they don’t even know where it is,” Mr. Feinman said. “You’re just making hackers’ lives so much easier.”

Among other proprietary information leaked online by the hackers are the budget of “The Interview,” contracts for sales of repeat episodes of “Seinfeld,” and employee-feedback forms, according to published reports. Five Sony movies, four of which haven’t yet been released in theaters, have also been pirated.

In potentially difficult timing, Sony Pictures was scheduled to have its annual holiday party for employees at its Los Angeles area lot Thursday night.

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