

Making Sense of Data Dumps & Data Leaks in Times of War & Peace

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Swiss Cyber Storm - October 24, 2023, Bern





by gosh - Wednesday October 18, 2023 at 01:01 AM

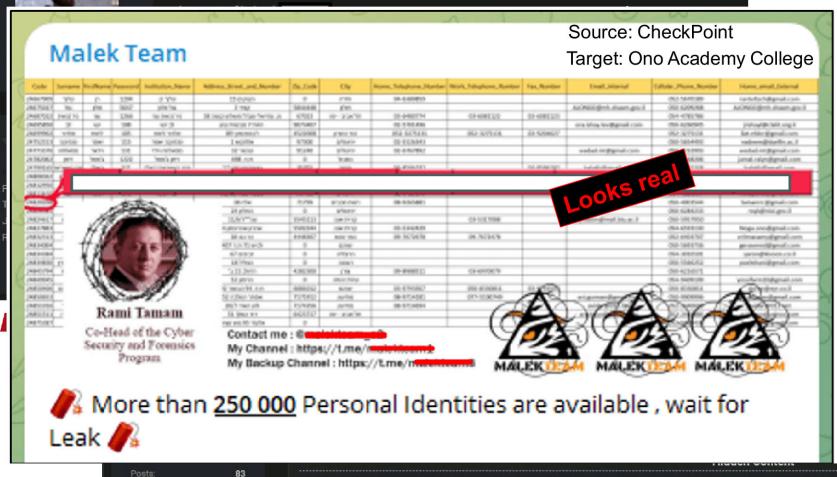
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out this?

5 hours ago. (This post was last modified: 5 hours ago by gosh

ISRAEL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE DATABASE

aks



Why does it matter?





Kyber Sprotyv (UKR) is not Phineas Fisher





Nemez1da (RU) is not RaidForums RAID





(new) Anonymous is not Vice Society





DDoSecrets is not Wikileaks



Losing data/information/PII in wartime can get people killed





In everyday interaction, the terms "data dumps" and "data leaks" are used synonymously



General Definitions

- Dumps are large amounts of data transfered from one system or location to another.
- Leaks are sensitive data that is unknowingly exposed.









General Differences

Information Density:

Dumps = Generally information poor (random files and sheets)
Leaks = Generally information rich (PII, financial data etc.)

Dissemination Vector:

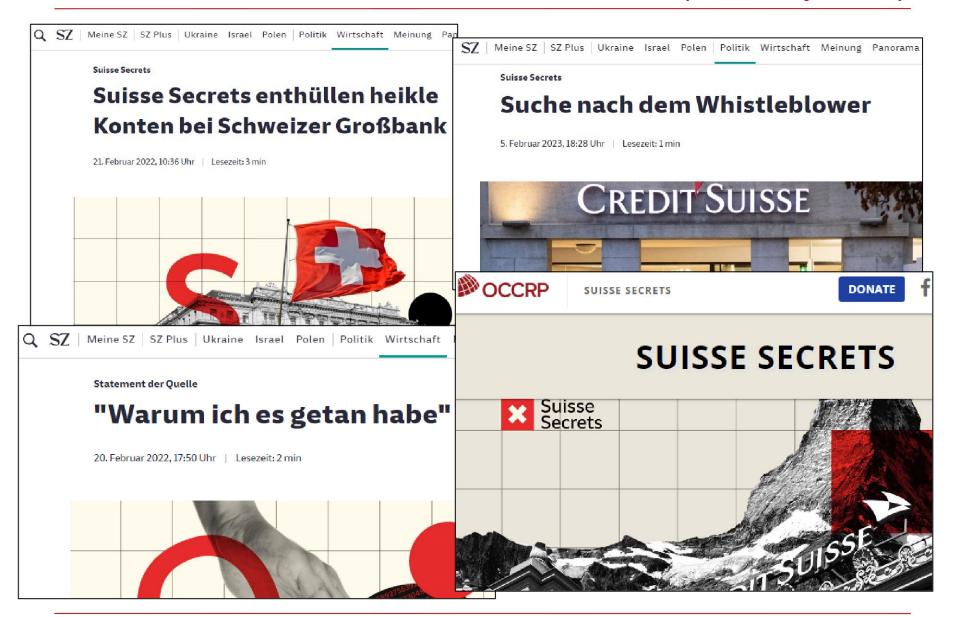
Dumps = Usually dumped into the public domain with little specifics on its origin, content, how it was exfiltrated, who it is addressed to, and its overall purpose. (ex. Random X account posts link to a huge .rar file)

Leaks = Usually released via a trusted intermediator, contextualized in origin, content, who found it, how it was exfiltrated, who it was given to, and why.(ex. Snowden leaks – we don't call it the Snowden dump)





Peacetime data leaks: Suisse Secrets (February 2022)







CCRP ORGANIZED CRIME AND CORRUPTION REPORTING PROJECT

Peacetime data leaks



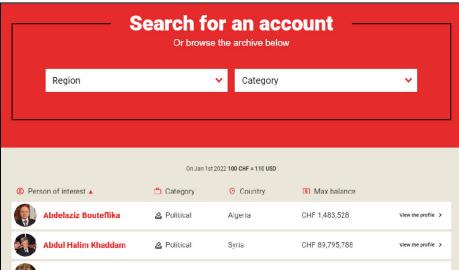
Who's in the Suisse Secrets Leak?

SUISSE SECRETS

The Suisse Secrets data leak includes dozens of corrupt government officials, criminals, and alleged human rights abusers who have been clients of the Swiss banking giant.

There is nothing inherently wrong with having a Swiss bank account. But banks are supposed to avoid clients who earned money illegally or were involved in crimes. Despite their notoriety - which, in some cases, would have been obvious from a quick Google search - Credit Suisse maintained relationships with some of these clients for years, though it is possible that some accounts were ordered frozen by law enforcement.

Source: https://cdn.occrp.org/projects/suisse-secrets-interactive/en/



STORIES FROM THE VAULTS



Sons of Azerbaijani Strongman Vasif Talibov Received Millions From Money Laundering Systems

Having opened bank accounts with Credit Suisse, Barclays, and other foreign banks, Rza and Seymur Talibov received over \$20 million in suspicious wire transfers, even at the people of the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhchivan suffered under their father's dictatorial rule.

- PEAD THE ARTIC

© 20 FEBRUARY 2022



Credit Suisse Account Played Role in Scheme
That Destroyed Ukrainian Agriculture Firm

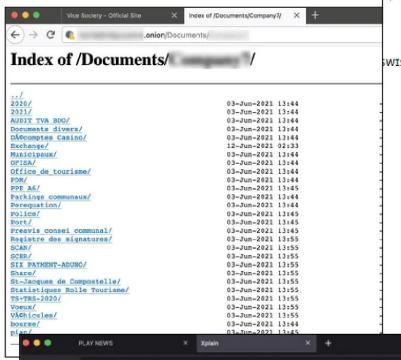
Mriya Agro Holding collapsed after its Ukrainian owners, members of the Guta family, siphoned over \$100 million of



Credit Suisse Banked And Financed
Zimbabwean Fraudster In Deal That Saved
Mugabe

Details from the Suisse Secrets leak cast new light on Credit

Peacetime data leaks: Rolle & Xplain



LETEMPS

WISS ECONOMY OPINIONS CULTURE COMPANY SCIENCE SPORT DATA EVENTS

"If we have access to other Swiss cities than Rolle, we will attack them too"

When contacted, the hackers who targeted the town of Rolle claimed that there had been no negotiation with the authorities. They also say that they will not be the ones to exploit the data posted online on the darknet

Hackerangriff auf die Firma Xplain: Auch die Bundesverwaltung ist betroffen

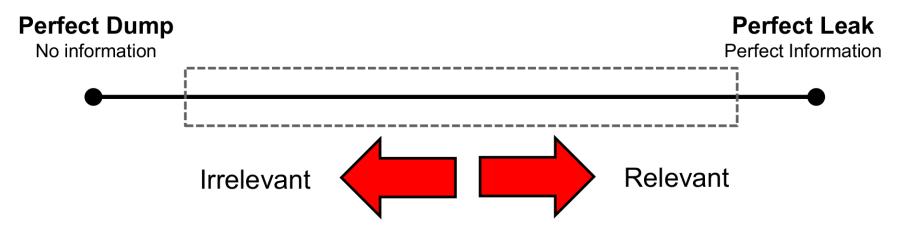
Bern, 08.06.2023 - Vom Ransomware-Angriff auf das Unternehmen Xplain, bei dem ein Teil der entwendeten Daten im Darknet publiziert wurde, könnten nach aktuellem Kenntnisstand auch operative Daten der Bundesverwaltung betroffen sein. Die vertieften Analysen laufen derzeit noch.

Die Firma Xplain, eine Schweizer Anbieterin von Behörden-Software, ist Opfer eines Ransomware-Angriffs geworden. Nachdem die entwendeten Daten verschlüsselt worden waren und die Firma erpresst worden war, stellten die Angreifer einen Teil der entwendeten Daten ins Darknet.

Xplain

What happens in the space in-between?

Some Information



In peace time, the space in-between is an academic problem.

Cases naturally become either relevant or irrelevant depending on the overarching ecosystem

(ex. data availability, journalistic/research interest (fake/real), public/company reaction, threat intel)





For this to function appropriately, there needs to be an ecosystem

Ex. What if there is a massive data dump/leak and literally nobody cares?







In Wartime: new ecosystems pop-up

- New/resurfacing actors enter the playing field
- Anything becomes a target for whatever reason
- Anything can get dumped/leaked
- These ecosystems develop their own internal dynamics

One part:

Oldschool Hacktivism & Wargrifting (chasing headlines)

Other part:

state-encouraged, state-shaped, state-coordinated, state-ordered, state-controlled groups

The attribution line is very blurry





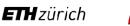
Problem

- People are interested in secrets, they are interested in conflict dynamics, and they interested in news. (trying to discouraging these traits by saying "don't download this" is counterproductive)
- Very few have the time and resources to investigate a dump/leak for its veracity (cost-benefit calculation / few dumps/leaks are investigated)
- The general differences to discern a dump from a leak do not matter in wartime (anything could be sensitive information)
- Journalists, academics, youths etc. need shortcuts to navigate this environment





- Hosting Choices: Why do groups use certain hosting providers to upload their dumps/leaks?
- Data Availability: Do they provide mirror links and re-upload the dump/leak?
- Language: Does the group have the language skills necessary to analyze the dump/leak itself?
- Size: Generally, an inverse relationship the larger the data dump, the less valuable the information
- ✔ Origin: The more detailed the information on where the data was exfiltrated from and how, the higher the likelihood it is legit
- Etc.





Another "Shortcut" is to look at the Ecosystem













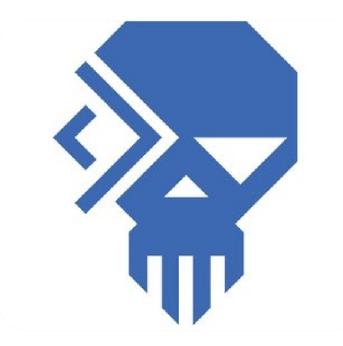




Multinational food conglomerate Nestlé has denied that it suffered a cyberattack after a Twitter account associated with hacking group Anonymous leaked a 10GB trove of information that allegedly included emails, passwords and client information.

A Nestlé spokesperson told The Record that the data came from a situation that happened in February.

Kyber Sprotyv (Cyber Resistance)











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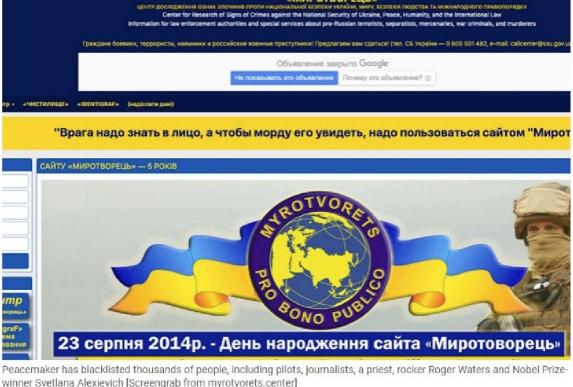
Features | Media

By Mansur Mirovalev

27 Aug 2019

Peacemaker: The Ukrainian website shaming pro-Russia voices

Being blacklisted on Peacemaker can have serious consequences, including the risk of being killed.



















Поскаржитись



Aleksandr Vladimirovich Osadchuk and Anatoliy Sergeyevich Kovalev, are charged with a separate conspiracy to commit computer crimes, relating to hacking into the computers of U.S. persons and entities responsible for the administration of 2016 U.S. elections, such as state boards of elections, secretaries of state, and U.S. companies that supplied software and other technology related to the administration of U.S. elections. The United States District Court for the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C. issued a federal arrest warrant for each of these defendants upon the grand jury's return of the indictment.



- (1) There is an educational need/demand when it comes to understanding and categorizing data dumps/leaks. (this is more pressing the more instable geopolitics become)
- (2) There is a general need to clearly explain the ecosystems in which a dump/leak is released into. (contextualization & conflict dynamics)
- (3) There is an ongoing evolution in how data dumps/leaks are being released (personalization)



Thank you:)

