

Geeky News Discusses the 23andMe Data Breach and the Urgent Need for Data Security Posture Management



Surrey, United Kingdom Nov 2, 2023 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Geeky News, a reputed technology and lifestyle journal, is pleased to announce the publication of a thought-provoking article. This piece delves into the repercussions of the recent data breach at 23andMe. It highlights the growing necessity for vigilant data security measures in our digital age.

The article examines the events surrounding the 23andMe data breach. Last month, the breach sent shockwaves throughout the digital landscape, compromising the sensitive records of over five million users. Personal data, including names, dates of birth, geographical locations, and genetic ancestry results, fell into the hands of hackers.

What sets this breach apart is the targeted nature of the attack. The threat actors specifically honed in on users of Ashkenazi Jewish and Chinese backgrounds. Around one million profiles of people with Jewish ancestry and hundreds of thousands of profiles of people with Chinese ancestry were exposed.

This breach also wasn't a typical server hack. The threat actors used individual user accounts to gain access to the "DNA relatives matches" feature. This allowed them to retrieve information about all the users connected to those accounts.

The interconnected nature of genetic databases is a core concern. When individuals submit their genetic data to companies like 23andMe, it inadvertently includes data about their relatives. That's even if those relatives never consented to such data collection. This interconnected web of data can have far-reaching implications, extending beyond genetics into other aspects of our lives.

The equity issues arising from this interconnected data are substantial. Hackers are now offering lists of people with Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry for sale, increasing the risk of discrimination or harassment. Similarly, individuals with certain genetic predispositions are at risk of repercussions, from insurance premium hikes to employment discrimination.

The article underscores the growing importance of data protection as the information economy becomes increasingly complex. It calls for privacy laws to adapt to the interconnected nature of data and emphasises the collective impact of data decisions. Consent provided on behalf of others, as exemplified by 23andMe users agreeing to terms, should be closely scrutinised to avoid collateral damage.

The data protection landscape is more critical than ever. Alarming statistics indicate that [only 4% of IT and security leaders](#) believe that their cloud data is adequately secured. Data Security Posture Management (DSPM) is a new field that addresses the issue of data security gaps and works on resolving issues regarding over-exposed data. However, many DSPM solutions—especially newcomers to the market—face certain challenges. These include limited discovery and classification capabilities, deficient user access mapping, and inadequate data flow tracking.

The article spotlights key elements of robust DSPM solutions, as explained by experts at [BigID](#):

- Securing sensitive data begins with understanding where it resides and what it contains, ensuring comprehensive coverage and support.
- Identifying who can access the data and addressing inappropriate permissions is crucial. Access governance features help in identifying over-privileged users and overexposed data. That enables organisations to swiftly address threats and prevent data breaches.
- Knowledge of the source and flow of data is essential for data security. Lineage integrations help customers understand data flows and protect sensitive information. This includes features like deep metadata discovery and real-time monitoring to track changes effectively.
- DSPM solutions help control user access and data usage. They include tools for remediation and access intelligence which reduce data exposure and privileged access. This improves security and access management.
- Trustworthy DSPM providers furnish the basis for evaluating data security. User-friendly dashboards and automated risk assessments ensure ongoing visibility and compliance with policies.

The 23andMe data breach serves as a stark reminder that data breaches can have far-reaching consequences. When sensitive genetic and personal information is involved, the consequences can be even more severe. Robust DSPM solutions are essential in helping organisations address these challenges, safeguard sensitive data, and prevent data breaches that could result in harm to individuals and communities.

For more information and to access the full article, please visit Geeky News at <https://www.geekynews.co.uk/23andme-data-breach-data-security-posture-management/>.

Media Contact

Geeky News

press@geekynews.co.uk

+44 20 3800 1212

Parallel House, 32 London Road Guildford, Surrey

Source : Geeky News

[See on IssueWire](#)