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<div align="center">Yahoo's Security Breach</div>

Yahoo is one of the world's largest web service providers, which is now owned by Verizon. Recently, Yahoo had had one of the biggest security breaches of all time, as all 3 billion accounts were compromised, leaving the company's name tainted forever. An analysis of the security breach uncovers that the cause lies within Yahoo's hiring practices.

How the Issue Started

The attack on Yahoo first began when a phishing email was sent in early 2014 to Yahoo employees hoping at least one employee would click on a link. A phishing email is one of the simplest forms of breaching but is also one of the most effective forms of bypassing security. One of the hackers was a man named Aleksey Belan, a Latvian hacker hired by the Russians, who was able to infiltrate the network and start poking around it. He was looking for two prizes: Yahoo's user database and the Account Management Tool, which was used to edit the database. He was soon able to find them and later installed a backdoor to Yahoo servers which allowed him access (Williams).

Facts of Security Breaches

Multiple studies have been conducted regarding previous security breaches. According to Ponemom Institute, which tracks data breaches, the average time it takes organizations to identify such an attack is 191 days, and the average time to contain a breach is 58 days after discovery ("Lessons from…"). The Yahoo security breach first started in 2014 but wasn't until late 2016 that the company realized the full scale of the breach, realizing all 3 billion emails were compromised. Such damages like these can be costly, as Yahoo agreed to pay $50 million in damages and provide two years of free credit-monitoring services to 200 million people whose

email addresses and other personal information were stolen (<mark>"Yahoo to Pay…"</mark>). Jacob Reddington, a cybersecurity lawyer with BC Safe, acknowledges that "such a security breach has the potential to be the end of Yahoo, causing it to file for bankruptcy" (<mark>"What Happened…"</mark>).

Conclusion

 Yahoo in recent years has been struggling due to having a lack of poor leaders and not recruiting the best employees they can get to keep the company afloat. Because of a lack of leaders, the company failed on buying other companies that had potential in making revenue. Recruiting skilled employees would have helped the company continue its reign, especially in the programming aspect. The lack of skilled programmers caused Yahoo to have a weak security system that allowed the breach of more than 3 million accounts.

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