



Security Newsletter

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Dear BA and Marriott: Your GDPR Fines Are Important to Us



British Airways hit with £183M GDPR fine—could your business be next?

The data protection gloves have finally come off in Europe after the EU's General Data Protection Regulation went into effect last May. Consider the tables now turned on organizations that fail to take their data protection responsibilities seriously.

On Monday, Britain's data protection authority, the Information Commissioner's Office, announced a proposed fine of £184 million (\$230 million) against British Airways after breaches last September and October enabled attackers to route customers to a fraudulent site, exposing 500,000 customers' personal details. On Tuesday, the ICO confirmed a proposed fine of £99 million (\$125 million) against Marriott International for its failure to stop a four-year breach that globally exposed approximately 220 million customer records. Both fines are

year breach that globally exposed approximately 339 million customer records. Both fines are the first major, proposed sanctions - they are not yet final - over data breaches that have occurred since GDPR enforcement began on May 25, 2018.

More GDPR fines are likely on the way, says Brian Honan, who heads Dublin-based cybersecurity consultancy BH Consulting. "Many GDPR breaches, especially the highly publicized ones, can take a long time for proper investigations by the supervisory authorities," Honan tells me. "What we are seeing now are the beginnings of the supervisory authorities issuing penalties under GDPR, and I expect we will see many more over the coming months." Already, both British Airways and Marriott are attempting to spin the proposed sanctions from the same playbook, using emotive language to stand in for inconvenient facts.

Marriott's fine was first revealed after the hotel giant warned investors that it might be on the hook, via a notice to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Investors will likely now be asking the company why it failed to spend a relatively small amount to protect its systems, versus the risk of incurring a much larger fine. The proposed \$230 million fine against British Airways represents about \$40 per record exposed in the breach, with the total equaling about 6 percent of airlines' 2018 profit. So, the total cost of this one incident is about \$500 million, or over 10 percent of BA's 2018 profit.

The message from regulators is clear: If you buy it, you own it. Also, any organization's ability to process customer data remains a privilege, not a right. Memo to all businesses that store Europeans' personal data: Act now to avoid disappointment.

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[GDPR Fines: Everything You Need To Know](#)

Magecart Hackers Infect 17,000 Sites Through Misconfigured Amazon S3 Buckets



Cybersecurity researchers have identified yet another supply-chain attack carried out by payment card hackers against more than 17,000 web domains, which also include websites in the top 2,000 of Alexa rankings. Since Magecart is neither a single group nor a specific malware instead an umbrella term given to all those cyber criminal groups and individuals who inject digital card skimmers on compromised websites, it is not necessary for every one of them to use similar techniques with the same sophistication.

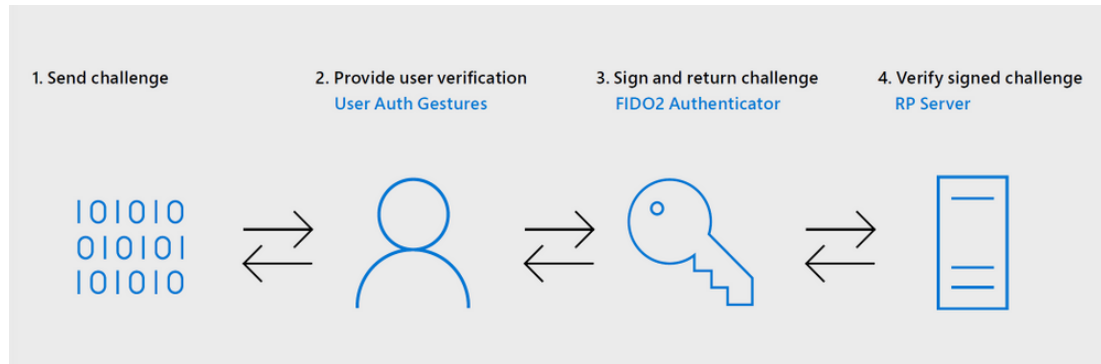
Almost two months ago, security researchers from RiskIQ discovered supply-chain attacks involving credit card skimmers placed on several web-based suppliers, including AdMaxim, CloudCMS, and Picreel intending to infect as many websites as possible. However, upon continuous monitoring of their activities, researchers found that the actual scale of this campaign, which started in early April 2019, is much larger than previously reported.

According to the researchers, since the beginning of the campaign, this group of Magecart attackers has continuously been scanning the Internet for misconfigured Amazon S3 buckets, which allows anyone to view and edit files it contains, and injecting their digital card skimming code at the bottom of every JavaScript file they find. Magecart made headlines last year after payment card hackers conducted several high-profile attacks against major international companies including British Airways, Ticketmaster, and Newegg.

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Microsoft Azure AD FIDO2 Passwordless Sign-In in Public Preview



Microsoft announced public preview support for FIDO2 security keys in Azure Active Directory (Azure AD) to provide users with passwordless authentication capabilities, eliminating passwords out of the logging in process.

With the help of a FIDO2 security key, as well as the Microsoft Authenticator app and Windows Hello, all Azure AD users can now log in without having to enter a password. "These strong authentication factors are based off the same world class, public key/private key encryption standards and protocols, which are protected by a biometric factor (fingerprint or facial recognition) or a PIN," added the Microsoft 365 team.

The end goal is to add support for the entire spectrum of available authentication factors, dramatically decrease the risk of account compromise by making the login process substantially more secure in the long term. Microsoft integrated the new public preview passwordless authentication solutions with the help of Feitian Technologies, Yubico, and HID Global, which provide security keys and cards compatible with the new Azure AD FIDO2 support.

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