

Identity Theft Resource Center

Charity Lacey

VP of Communications

O: 858-634-6390

C: 619-368-4373

[clacey@idtheftcenter.org](mailto:clacey@idtheftcenter.org)

CyberScout

Lelani Clark

VP of Communications

O: 646-649-5766

C: 347-204-9297

[lelani@adamlevin.com](mailto:lelani@adamlevin.com)

**Consumers at Risk: 126% Increase in Exposed Consumer Data, 1.68 Billion Email-Related Credentials**

Identity Theft Resource Center<sup>®</sup> and CyberScout<sup>®</sup> Annual End-of-Year Data Breach Report for 2018 reveals other alarming trends

San Diego – Jan 28, 2019 – The Identity Theft Resource Center<sup>®</sup>, a nationally recognized non-profit organization established to support victims of identity crime, and CyberScout<sup>®</sup>, a full-spectrum identity, privacy and data security services firm, released the 2018 End-of-Year Data Breach Report.

According to the report, the number of U.S. data breaches tracked in 2018 decreased from last year's all-time high of 1,632 breaches by 31 percent (or 1,244 breaches), but the reported number of consumer records exposed containing sensitive personally identifiable information jumped 126 percent from the 197,612,748 records exposed in 2017 to 446,515,334 records this past year.

“The increased exposure of sensitive consumer data is serious,” said Eva Velasquez, president and CEO of the Identity Theft Resource Center. “Never has there been more information out there putting consumers in harm’s way. ITRC continues to help victims and consumers by providing guidance on the best ways to navigate the dangers of identity theft to which these exposures give rise.”

Another critical finding was the number of non-sensitive records compromised, not included in the above totals, an additional 1.68 billion exposed records. While email-related credentials are not considered sensitive personally identifiable information, a majority of consumers use the same username/email and password combinations across multiple platforms creating serious vulnerability.

-MORE-

“When it comes to cyber hygiene, email continues to be the Achilles Heel for the average consumer,” said CyberScout founder and chair, Adam Levin. “There are many strategies consumers can use to minimize their exposure, but the takeaway from this year’s report is clear: Breaches are the third certainty in life, and constant vigilance is the only solution.”

To download the 2018 End-of-Year Data Breach Report, visit: [idtheftcenter.org/2018-end-of-year-data-breach-report/](http://idtheftcenter.org/2018-end-of-year-data-breach-report/)

###

#### About ITRC:

Founded in 1999, the Identity Theft Resource Center® (ITRC) is a nationally recognized non-profit organization established to support victims of identity theft in resolving their cases, and to broaden public education and awareness in the understanding of identity theft, data breaches, cybersecurity, scams/fraud, and privacy issues. Through public and private support, the ITRC provides no-cost victim assistance and consumer education through its call center, website, social media channels, live chat feature and ID Theft Help app. For more information, visit: <http://www.idtheftcenter.org>

#### About CyberScout:

Since 2003, CyberScout® has set the standard for full-spectrum identity, privacy and data security services, offering proactive protection, employee benefits, education, resolution, identity management and consulting as well as breach preparedness and response programs.

CyberScout products and services are offered globally by 660 client partners to more than 17.5 million households worldwide, and CyberScout is the designated identity theft services provider for more than 750,000 businesses through cyber insurance policies. CyberScout combines extensive experience with high-touch service to help individuals, government, nonprofit and commercial clients minimize risk and maximize recovery.

