



“Useful Technology News and Ideas for Your Business”

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Compilation of Many Breaches Leaks Over 3 Billion Passwords

In February 2021 cybersecurity researchers discovered a treasure trove of breached records which seemed to add onto [previously gathered leaks from 2019](#). Dubbed [the Compilation of Many Breaches \(COMB\)](#) by the supposed perpetrator who posted it on hacker gathering spot, raidforums, the collection included over 3 billion unique account passwords and up to 15 billion matching email addresses. Though the impact of this type of data dump is still being questioned, experts caution anyone whose login information is featured in COMB to beware of potential [credential stuffing attacks](#) that could follow.



COMB a Compilation of Past Data Breaches and Leaks

Researchers that have been able to scour through the data, as well as comments on the hacking forum itself, indicate that most of the login details in this collection were taken from past dumps previously shared through the Dark Web. This follows a continuous trend seen with these leaks, where cybercriminals with less sophisticated skills will try instead to profit off files and tools acquired from more professional hackers. They will leverage the underground ecosystem through sites like raidforums to be able to sell the resources they have collected at a deep discount to other amateur who lack the knowledge to pull off grander schemes by themselves.

Hacked Passwords May Include Netflix and LinkedIn Logins

One potentially worrying point in COMB is that a number of credentials come from very popular platforms with a high volume of users, including [Netflix, LinkedIn and Gmail](#), among many, many others. The list also includes logins for websites and services that are less reputable but still frequently trafficked, such as Bitcoin and even [another hacker forum called Exploit.in](#) that caters to Russian speakers. The compilation, just as the others before it, is meant to hold as many corresponding email addresses and passwords as possible to drive up its value to potential buyers.

Severity of Compilation Leaks

It is important to note when measuring the severity of these types of leaks that all the information had already been stolen in a previous breach, and the person selling it is rarely the same threat actor. That factor is dangerous in itself, but the posting of a huge data dump such as COMB does not necessarily add any more to the risk that was already there, and the massive volume of records reflects a diminishing value for individual credentials.

Findings from researchers and comments on raidforums reveal that many of the files were corrupted and of generally low quality, and the user responsible for posting it was ultimately banned. Access to the entire collection could be had for only \$2 because of how much of the data had already been featured and used - virtually all of it been included in one previous dump or another in the Dark Web.

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What our clients are saying: Cooper Wilbert Vault Co. Testimonial

When asked about what she liked about our services:

“The quick response. Having SWK is like having your own IT Department that you can count on. Our computer system is a big part of our business and having SWK gives us a piece of mind that if something goes down we have a team of individuals that are going to help us get back up in running in minimal time. Time is money and if the computers/server goes down the clock is ticking. Each “computer guy” we have encountered is extremely knowledgeable and pleasant to deal with.”

Beth Cooper
Cooper Wilbert Vault Co.



Two ways to WIN a gift card!

It only takes a minute and YOU could be our next winner! We've had lower than normal submissions lately, so your chances are very high for winning.

Last Month's Contest Winner:

Lori Lynch
Foundation Title

Please complete our brief survey in order to be placed in the running to win this month's gift card prize!

1. What do you like most about our services?
2. Tell us about a specific experience with us that you were happy with.
3. What are the biggest benefits you've received or experienced since hiring us?
4. What can we improve?

Email Jon Stiles (jonathan.stiles@swktech.com) with your responses

OR

Fill out our online form:

<http://bit.ly/nwsnews-survey>

before **March 5th** to get your name in the hat.

You could win a



ARE YOU GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR OFFICE 365 PLAN?

If you are not sure if you are getting the full value of your [Office 365 plan](#), then let SWK Technologies help you uncover the full benefits of your implementation. The experts at SWK's Managed Cloud Services (MCS) practice will show you [what features you may have overlooked](#), where you could be saving money and which licenses may provide the best fit for your business. We will empower you to gain a true understanding of everything your productivity suite has to offer to ensure you unlock the total value of your Microsoft investments. The breadth of options available across the cumulative Office 365 plan choices can be overwhelming to review, especially considering the relatively frequent name changes for some products. With everything being rearranged and unified under the Microsoft 365 umbrella, it can be a challenge to obtain information useful to your search without spending hours and hours of valuable time on research. That is why a partner like SWK MCS is critical to learning what you need to maximize the returns on your productivity software. Here are a few ways to help you discover if you are getting the most value from your Office 365 plan:

OFFICE 365 VS MICROSOFT 365 – NAME CHANGES

Microsoft has become fairly notorious for their frequent and occasionally confusing name changes across different product lines, but this only reflects the range of options the publisher tries to cover with their multiple versions. Because of the scope of the ecosystem, partners like SWK act as the education and support resource for customers on the ground seeking [to better understand their applications](#). Learning the difference between [the new Microsoft 365 and older Office 365](#) may seem compounded by the latest rebranding, but it boils down simply enough to which suite fits your situation the best. The key is that the O365 platform is still included with a full Microsoft plan, although it is technically not featured in every one so it requires some review and decision-making. However, all but the most basic comes with the original Office 365 platform along with the original applications, so if you have an existing subscription it should not be impacted by the change. The remaining difference (and possibly the most confusion) lies between the multiple Basic and Enterprise versions – products in the former have limited user maximums and are strictly named under Microsoft 365 while the latter includes both names and unlimited users.

CLOUD ENABLES COLLABORATION AND ACCELERATES PRODUCTIVITY

Windows-based systems were experiencing many changes long before the latest naming conventions were even conceptualized, adding more potential confusion. Office 365 was a breakthrough on its own when it was first introduced and still continues to offer businesses a transformation of traditional processes by hosting their productivity tools in the cloud. It brought many of the core Microsoft apps into an online environment that granted users the ability to simultaneously interact with shared files, along with many other time and cost saving features that boost efficiency.

Software and IT infrastructure resources delivered as services (SaaS and IaaS, respectively) provide several opportunities to streamline the way your business runs that are not found with legacy deployments. You no longer have to buy physical copies of Office 365 and install applications manually, but instead will download them based on your subscription and digital licenses. Herein also lies another important difference – the various versions of your Microsoft 365 plan are divided by user maximums, as well as which add-ons are included natively or can be integrated separately.

ALL THE FEATURES OF MICROSOFT OFFICE PLUS ACCESS TO ADD-ONS

Office 365 at its core still delivers the traditional suite of applications users all over the world have come to rely on, now all hosted in the cloud. [Word, Excel, PowerPoint all have Online versions](#) that allow anyone given permission to simultaneously view or make changes to the file, though the catalyst that enables this functionality is the addition to note. [OneDrive](#) is the foundation of your subscription's web-based features, and along with SharePoint, allows you to keep machines remotely connected to your network from anywhere and share files in real-time.

Many of these applications are standard (though not universal) to most Microsoft 365 plans, though once you begin digging into the higher levels you will uncover more select services like Power BI that require a deeper review on your part. Some are included natively under certain subscriptions, but many are available as add-ons with licenses that must be purchased separately, as well as upgrades to existing apps.

NATIVE SECURITY CONTROLS AND SOLUTIONS

With the advent of hosted features, cloud security is naturally a concern among many would-be and even existing users of Office 365. The good news is that [there are several native user controls](#) available even most basic plans that prevent sensitive data from being exposed due to human error and role-based permissions that can be organized within your network. The bad news is that more advanced cybersecurity solutions like Azure Information Protection (AIP) are either only obtainable through license upgrades that must be purchased as add-ons, or with certain Enterprise level subscriptions.

The other good news is that many of these additional services [are designed to help meet regulatory standards for data security](#), so if privacy compliance is a concern for your business, then this should be a factor in choosing your Microsoft 365 plan. These features will add additional layers of protection to your cyber defense along with the right user training to protect against human error and complacency, reinforcing your cybersecurity posture with automation.

MICROSOFT APP INTEGRATION WITH YOUR ERP

If you have implemented an enterprise resource planning (ERP) solution like [Sage 100](#) at any point, then chances are you are already migrating data from your Office 365 applications to your accounting software. However, streamlining these manual methodologies for moving information between your systems will greatly reduce the time and money that must be devoted to doing so as well the inaccuracies that occur. More modern features in both product categories – including cloud-hosted functionality – allow for seamless transfer of files [from your ERP to Microsoft apps like Excel](#), so you can import and export spreadsheets and PDFs between apps effortlessly. SWK Technologies is a software reseller as well as a managed service provider (MSP), able to provide a level of support and customization for both hosted applications and your IT infrastructure that enables you to build an integrated technology stack. Our expert knowledge and guidance will empower you to connect your Office 365 data with solutions like [Sage 100cloud](#) and [Acumatica](#), and build workflows that permit users to move within the touchpoints of each system interrupted.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT MICROSOFT 365 PLAN

There are many, many more factors to consider when choosing the right Microsoft 365 plan besides those few mentioned here, but the information outlined previously should help provide you with a foundation to get started. Narrowing down your M365 selection must follow the same methodology as making any other business technology purchase – review your gaps and determine the functionality you need, find a solution that bridges those gaps, and measure the value return.

The focal point of your search should be your business's scalability, and the role Office 365 plays in either enabling or hampering growth. Answering a few of these questions will help you zero in on the right choice:

- Does your current user max impede growth?
- How many emails do your employees send and receive in a day?
- Are you using all the apps in your plan?
- How much time does it take for employees to finish projects in Word, Excel, etc.?
- Are there any employees that work remotely, and if so, how many?
- How much of your data is in the O365 cloud?

SIGN UP TO DISCOVER ALL YOUR OFFICE 365 PLAN HAS TO OFFER

Dive deeper into what else every Microsoft and Office 365 plan has to offer by watching SWK's webinar on getting the most value out of your suite. Our Senior Solutions Architect and resident Microsoft service expert will walk you through what features you may already have but overlooked and where you could be saving more money by maximizing use of your O365 investment.

[Register for the webinar here](#) and discover how to capture the most value from Office 365.

Shiny gadget of the month: SHOWER POWER: THE HYDROPOWER SHOWER



Everyone enjoys listening to music, a pod cast, or audio book and we all inevitably shower. Ampere has the solution once and for all in Shower Power, a hydro powered speaker.

Existing waterproof speakers either aren't great or can be a pain to charge. Shower Power runs off of your water so once you install it you never have to worry about it again. Installation is designed to be super easy with a universal design to fit any showerhead. It essentially works like a water wheel in a dam and uses the flow of the shower to charge its battery (without inhibiting water pressure). The little gadget is ecofriendly too, not only for using your shower water to power it, but is made from recycled ocean plastic too.

The gadget made its debut at CES earlier this year and is still up on [indiegogo](https://indiegogo.com) and has gotten praise from many of the big tech sites like The Verge, CNET, Digital Trends and others. It comes in three colors, white, black, and chrome. By reaching one of their goals they are also offering a LED light edition for when you want to have a light show to go with your music as you jam out. Even if you're not actually showering you can still run the speaker which states it has 14 hours of playback on a charge. It has large physical buttons and if it is in a hard to reach place there is a waterproof remote as well.

Shower Power has a current estimated shipping date of May 2021 and you can still lock in an early bird pricing for \$79 on the [indiegogo](https://indiegogo.com) page (regularly \$100) along with some upgraded versions as well. For those of you who have flirted with getting a shower speaker but never pulled the trigger maybe this is the one for you. The idea of a self-sustaining speaker is pretty cool. We will have to wait and see how the public accepts it in May. Let us know what you think!

SWK TECHNOLOGIES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN MANAGED IT SERVICES

SWK TECHNOLOGIES NAMED TO CRN 2021 MSP500 ELITE 150

FEBRUARY 17, 2021 (EAST HANOVER, NJ) – SWK Technologies, Inc. has been named to the 2021 Managed Service Provider (MSP) 500 list in the Elite 150 category by CRN®, a brand of The Channel Company. This annual list recognizes North American solution providers who have cutting-edge approaches to delivering managed services. Their offerings help companies navigate the complex and ever-changing landscape of IT, improve operational efficiencies, and maximize their return on IT investments.



In today's fast-paced business environments, MSPs such as SWK Technologies play an important role in helping companies leverage new technologies without straining their budgets or losing focus on their core business. CRN's MSP 500 list shines a light on the most forward-thinking and innovative of these key organizations.

"Effective MSPs enable companies to focus on their core objectives while improving the quality and reliability of their cloud computing capabilities," said Blaine Raddon, CEO of The Channel Company. "The solution providers on CRN's 2021 MSP 500 list deserve recognition for their innovative and forward-thinking approaches to managed services, and the ability to optimize operational efficiencies and systems to maximize return on investments."

"We're proud to be named to the CRN MSP500 Elite 150 for the fifth consecutive year," said Mark Meller, CEO of SWK. "Our team, under the leadership of B.J. O'Reilly and Bill Michael, has done a remarkable job during the Covid-19 pandemic. As the "work-from-home" paradigm has become a reality over this past year, our managed cloud services has ensured that our customers can work remotely, accessing their data and mission critical applications from home. This has enabled them to effectively work and collaborate while simultaneously maintaining the health and safety of their staff. Whether in cybersecurity, application hosting, business continuity, disaster recovery or helpdesk, the SWK team enables the success of our customers and helps them recognize value for their IT investments each and every day."

The MSP 500 list will be featured in the February 2021 issue of CRN and can be found online at www.CRN.com/msp500.

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COMB INCLUDED PASSWORDS OF FLORIDA WATER SUPPLY THAT WAS HACKED

Despite the statistical improbability of COMB generating new cyber threats, [a recently attempted hack on a water treatment facility in Oldsmar](#), Florida has led some to believe that it was tied to credentials found in the compilation. Several email addresses belonging to users of the plant's IT systems [were found in the collection](#), and the attack was facilitated through software that allowed remote access to the industrial control system (ICS) functions. The culprit raised the chemical levels in the water to potentially fatal levels, however, the facility manager fortunately noticed the change immediately and quickly corrected the issue.

Muddling the identification of the threat is that the majority of those Oldsmar emails found in COMB were in also in an earlier compilation from 2017, and planning for the hack would still require some time for social engineering tactics. It does reflect a real danger, though, of potential amateur cybercriminals or nation-state hackers leveraging this data for short-term attacks. Indeed, the Florida water supply hack is exactly [the type of cyber infrastructure breach that Iran has attempted in the past](#) and could reflect their chaotic, often widely outsourced cyber attack methodology.

PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST DATA BREACHES AND HACKED PASSWORDS

As a general rule of thumb, we always advise to have a password policy in place and to make regular changes to your passwords to minimize the threat of compromised credentials. Beyond that, SWK Technologies can provide several [cybersecurity solutions and services](#) that enable you to determine if any of your login credentials appear in the Dark Web, and to take the steps to protect your system from a breach. We will deliver the tools and training you need to prepare against, adapt to and overcome the various cyber threats that can affect your business.

[Contact SWK today](#) to learn more about our cyber threat protection services and how they will secure your business against the dangers of data breaches.

Gift Card Trivia!

This month's question is:

How many unique account passwords were leaked in COMB? (Hint: The answer is in this newsletter.)

- over 500 million
- over 1 billion
- over 75 million
- over 3 billion

Please email Jon Stiles (jonathan.stiles@swktech.com) with your answer by **March 5th**, in order to be placed in the running for this month's gift card prize!

We can help you with:

- Cybersecurity
- IaaS
- Complete network management and support
- Troubleshooting and problem solving on all PCs and Macs
- Cloud services and virtualization
- Hardware installation and support
- Virus / spyware removal and protection
- Security solutions
- Employee awareness training
- VPN (Virtual Private Networks)
- Remote access / Mobile computing
- Server installations and upgrades
- Spam filtering
- Hosted email
- Web content filtering
- System backups, on-site and off-site
- Help desk

Contact us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products.

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REDUCE THE COSTS OF DOWNTIME WITH SECURE CLOUD

Discover how to [preserve the integrity of your IT systems](#) and ultimately reduce the costs of downtime with a secure cloud hosting service that delivers consistent uptime. With a hosted infrastructure that is supported and protected in real-time, you will be able to mitigate [the damage done by network shutdowns](#) and eliminate the chances of total data loss. Engaging the right provider will make the difference in enabling your business to recover as quickly as possible from disaster and restore your database completely. Here is what you need to know to be able reduce the cost of downtime with a secure cloud environment:

CALCULATING THE REAL COST OF DOWNTIME FOR YOUR NETWORK

The world today inextricably runs on data; however, [for some businesses the impact of losing access to their digital assets is greater than for others](#). This ultimately impacts the price tag you will face if your network goes down – if your industry space requires a faster go to market to achieve ROI, then any disruption to information flow will be harmful. The longer it lasts, the closer to outright devastating it will creep to, which is why factors like your system set up and backup strategy also play a huge part in calculating the cost of downtime.

WHAT DOES YOUR IT INFRASTRUCTURE LOOK LIKE?

SMBs are at a crossroads when it comes to [technology that enables business acceleration in key roles](#) yet presents uncertainties, budget concerns and considerable resource commitments for adoption. Many have had to make piecemeal IT migrations to keep up with partners and customers demanding cloud functionality for connected systems, while maintaining legacy systems that still contain vital data. Without the right guidance and support to manage the idiosyncrasies in this set up, there is a risk of major disruption if only a few pieces break at the wrong time.

Even if you only have a [Microsoft 365 or Office 365 subscription](#), some of your files live in a SaaS environment separate from your on-premise servers, and this will affect [how often you must back them up](#) and the final cost of downtime. If you are relying on any type of outdated applications or hardware, then this will also create more challenges for backup. There are many things that could go wrong in silos of an ad hoc IT infrastructure, but they all ultimately influence the overall health of your system.

HOW FAST DOES YOUR DATA NEED TO MOVE?

The world has been going through a period of digital transformation for years, [which the mass shift to work from home environments during the 2020 pandemic only accelerated](#). Consumers everywhere increasingly demand product and service be delivered at the speed of “right now,” and you must be able to capture as much uninterrupted visibility as possible into your value chain to fulfill this demand. The cost of downtime for your system is directly impacted by the pace at which you require insight into customer channels, for functions from sales (including ecommerce) to marketing to finance.

HOW FREQUENT ARE YOUR BACKUPS?

If your [backup schedule](#) is longer than a few days at a time, then you are already facing a huge risk of business-ending disaster proportions. Yet even backing up data daily still brings significant danger – as previously mentioned, information moves fast in today’s markets, and every minute introduces the potential a critical touchpoint occurred. Any file you lose could be a lower priority document, but there always exists the chance that anything not successfully backed up in a secure cloud will be a damaging loss of value, and multiple deletions could destroy your business.

ON-PREMISE OR HOSTED IN THE CLOUD

Hosted environments provide several advantages from legacy solutions to mitigating downtime, and these rise exponentially in value as your cloud service provider (CSP) is able to

guarantee their delivery. [Security and sustainability are the biggest considerations for any deployment of web-based resources](#), but a CSP that is unable to provide them consistently – or at all – will diminish your ROI on migrating your systems and data.

CAUSES OF DOWNTIME AND HOW THEY IMPACT EACH CHOICE

[Network downtime can be caused by a multitude of factors](#), and the costs associated with restoring your system’s functions can become easier or harder to manage depending on the exact situation. Whether any of your resources and/or data are hosted remotely or kept in on-premise legacy solutions will also play a big part in recovery.

• Human Error

The largest contributor to network outages by far, human error can come in a variety of forms but all lead to the same consequences. Whether made by users internally, or remotely from a developer or engineer among your software developer’s or hosting provider’s service teams, a mistake from any of these parties could potentially bring down your entire system. This is especially important to consider [when in the cloud](#), as the wrong configuration on your publisher’s or CSP’s end could cause serious application bugs, which can affect more than one part of your stack.

• Natural Disaster

This category includes weather events from storms to [full-blown hurricanes](#), fires both widespread (such as the 2020 California wildfires) and local, and many other occurrences (earthquakes, structural collapse, etc.). These types of events present the most danger to on-premise resources and datacenters, as any onsite damage will inevitably extend to any storage hardware. Offsite hosting provides redundancy in these cases and allows a better guarantee of recovery with whatever data was saved to the cloud, as well as saving the cost of damages to any servers that were not needed.

• Cyber Attack

Cyber attack rates have certainly increased in recent years, in part because hackers realized who has the most to gain from control of your electronic assets – you. [Ransomware gangs have grown in prominence and number](#) because locking down your files creates a captive market, and providing encryption keys to victims can be a lucrative business model. Even if an attacker seeks only to steal your data, there remains a good chance that whatever malware or brute force technique they use to access it could have a serious impact on your systems, as the last priority for a cybercriminal is the well-being of your IT.

FINDING THE RIGHT CLOUD SERVICE PROVIDER

A secure cloud environment delivers many opportunities to mitigate downtime, but only with a reliable CSP that has a proven track record of assuring uptime. Incidents like [the multiple outages experienced by Summit Hosting](#) illustrate why service is not universally guaranteed with every provider, and choosing the wrong partner will put your access to your data at risk.

MITIGATE DOWNTIME WITH SECURE CLOUD HOSTING

SWK’s Secure Cloud Hosting service has a 99.9% uptime guarantee – we make it our mission to safeguard your data and protect your network from all potential disruptions. With real-time support and cybersecurity provided by incident response (IR) veterans, we will help you reduce the damage and costs of downtime – reach out to us ASAP to learn more.

[Contact SWK Technologies today](#) and discover how to reduce the costs brought by network downtime with our Secure Cloud Hosting solution.

