

# University Data Incident Overview

*Prepared for the Minnesota Legislative Commission on Cybersecurity, Nov. 13, 2023*

## What happened?

- On July 21, 2023, the University learned a person posted on the internet certain admissions, race, and ethnicity information, claiming it came from a University database.
- The University immediately initiated an investigation and promptly engaged forensics professionals to assess whether the claim was credible and to ensure the security of the University's electronic systems.
- After an extensive investigation, the University determined a person likely gained unauthorized access to a University database.

## What information was involved?

- The incident potentially affected individuals who submitted information to the University as a prospective student, attended the University as a student, worked at the University as an employee, or participated in University programs between 1989 and August 2021.
- Potentially affected information could have included, depending on an individual's affiliation with the University:

Full name	Address	Driver's license or passport info	University ID
Phone number	Birthdate	Social Security number	Demographic info
Employment info	Admissions application(s)		

## How did the University respond?

- We bolstered security around the information we maintain in coordination with forensics professionals:
  - Increased data access control measures
  - Reduced the number of people authorized to access sensitive information
  - Expanded multi-factor authentication and other security measures
  - Increased monitoring for suspicious activities
- We retained global experts to assist in our investigation and ensure the security of our networks. They scanned our electronic systems and did not identify any ongoing suspicious activity related to this incident.
- We have worked with the appropriate law enforcement and regulatory officials, and will continue to cooperate in any active investigation by those agencies.
- We notified potentially affected individuals via email (where available), dedicated information web pages, and nationwide news wires.

## What is the University doing for potentially affected individuals?

- Offering 12 months of free credit and identity theft monitoring services
- Established a dedicated call center where potentially affected individuals can ask questions and receive assistance enrolling in credit and identity theft monitoring services