

Privacy Rights Clearinghouse - Data breaches database.

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Upon visiting the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse Data Breaches Database, I found the granularity of the search feature particularly useful. It allows querying the breach database on organization type, organization subtype, breach type, breach subtype, state of incident, and date range. Besides the information of the breach itself, the various filters may provide researchers valuable sources of historical data to identify patterns, trends, and risk factors associated with cybersecurity incidents.

Some research applications may include:

Trend Analysis where researchers track how the number of reported breaches changes over time. And identify whether certain industries are more at risk of experiencing breaches more than others.

Furthermore , the information provided on the attack vector may provide insight into the usage of various frameworks depending on the target and the goal of the attacker.

More importantly, if the information gathered from the dataset is combined with data on prior system audit, it might shine some light onto the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of the Policies and Compliance constraints already in place.

Many social sciences would benefit from a site hosting this information, but it is particularly useful for social cybersecurity researchers because it contains real-world incident information that goes back many years (or decades), allowing them to study actual breach behavior at scale.

References

Privacy Rights Clearinghouse. (n.d.). Data breaches. Privacy Rights Clearinghouse. Retrieved June 7, 2026, from <https://privacyrights.org/data-breaches>