Data Breach Response Policy

Created by or for the SANS Institute. Feel free to modify or use for your organization. If you have a policy to contribute, please send e-mail to stephen@sans.edu

1.0 Purpose
The purpose of the policy is to establish the goals and the vision for the breach response process. This policy will clearly define to whom it applies and under what circumstances, and it will include the definition of a breach, staff roles and responsibilities, standards and metrics (e.g., to enable prioritization of the incidents), as well as reporting, remediation, and feedback mechanisms. The policy shall be well publicized and made easily available to all personnel whose duties involve data privacy and security protection.

<ORGANIZATION NAME> Information Security's intentions for publishing a Data Breach Response Policy are to focus significant attention on data security and data security breaches and how <ORGANIZATION NAME>'s established culture of openness, trust and integrity should respond to such activity. <ORGANIZATION NAME> Information Security is committed to protecting <ORGANIZATION NAME>'s employees, partners and the company from illegal or damaging actions by individuals, either knowingly or unknowingly.

1.1 Background
This policy mandates that any individual who suspects that a theft, breach or exposure of <ORGANIZATION NAME> Protected data or <ORGANIZATION NAME> Sensitive data has occurred must immediately provide a description of what occurred via e-mail to Helpdesk@<ORGANIZATION NAME>.org, by calling 555-1212, or through the use of the help desk reporting web page at http://<ORGANIZATION NAME>. This e-mail address, phone number, and web page are monitored by the <ORGANIZATION NAME>'s Information Security Administrator. This team will investigate all reported thefts, data breaches and exposures to confirm if a theft, breach or exposure has occurred. If a theft, breach or exposure has occurred, the Information Security Administrator will follow the appropriate procedure in place.

2.0 Scope
This policy applies to all whom collect, access, maintain, distribute, process, protect, store, use, transmit, dispose of, or otherwise handle personally identifiable information or Protected Health Information (PHI) of <ORGANIZATION NAME> members. Any agreements with vendors will contain language similar that protects the fund.

3.0 Policy Confirmed theft, data breach or exposure of <ORGANIZATION NAME> Protected data or <ORGANIZATION NAME> Sensitive data

As soon as a theft, data breach or exposure containing <ORGANIZATION NAME> Protected data or <ORGANIZATION NAME> Sensitive data is identified, the process of removing all access to that resource will begin.

The Executive Director will chair an incident response team to handle the breach or exposure.

The team will include members from:
•   IT Infrastructure
•   IT Applications
•   Finance (if applicable)
•   Legal
•   Communications
•   Member Services (if Member data is affected)
•   Human Resources
•   The affected unit or department that uses the involved system or output or whose data may have been breached or exposed
•   Additional departments based on the data type involved, Additional individuals as deemed necessary by the Executive Director

Confirmed theft, breach or exposure of <ORGANIZATION NAME> data

The Executive Director will be notified of the theft, breach or exposure. IT, along with the designated forensic team, will analyze the breach or exposure to determine the root cause.

Work with Forensic Investigators

As provided by <ORGANIZATION NAME> cyber insurance, the insurer will need to provide access to forensic investigators and experts that will determine how the breach or exposure occurred; the types of data involved; the number of internal/external individuals and/or organizations impacted; and analyze the breach or exposure to determine the root cause.

Develop a communication plan.

Work with <ORGANIZATION NAME> communications, legal and human resource departments to decide how to communicate the breach to: a) internal employees, b) the public, and c) those directly affected.

3.2 Ownership and Responsibilities

Roles & Responsibilities:

• Sponsors - Sponsors are those members of the <ORGANIZATION NAME> community that have primary responsibility for maintaining any particular information resource. Sponsors may be designated by any <ORGANIZATION NAME> Executive in connection with their administrative responsibilities, or by the actual sponsorship, collection, development, or storage of information.
• Information Security Administrator is that member of the <ORGANIZATION NAME> community, designated by the Executive Director or the Director, Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure, who provides administrative support for the implementation, oversight and coordination of security procedures and systems with respect to specific information resources in consultation with the relevant Sponsors.
• Users include virtually all members of the <ORGANIZATION NAME> community to the extent they have authorized access to information resources, and may include staff, trustees, contractors, consultants, interns, temporary employees and volunteers.
• The Incident Response Team shall be chaired by Executive Management and shall include, but will not be limited to, the following departments or their representatives: IT-Infrastructure, IT-Application Security; Communications; Legal; Management; Financial Services, Member Services; Human Resources.

4.0 Enforcement
Any < ORGANIZATION NAME > personnel found in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. Any third party partner company found in violation may have their network connection terminated.

5.0 Definitions
Encryption or encrypted data – The most effective way to achieve data security. To read an encrypted file, you must have access to a secret key or password that enables you to decrypt it. Unencrypted data is called plain text;
Plain text – Unencrypted data.
Hacker – A slang term for a computer enthusiast, i.e., a person who enjoys learning programming languages and computer systems and can often be considered an expert on the subject(s).
Protected Health Information (PHI) - Under US law is any information about health status, provision of health care, or payment for health care that is created or collected by a "Covered Entity" (or a Business Associate of a Covered Entity), and can be linked to a specific individual.
Personally Identifiable Information (PII) - Any data that could potentially identify a specific individual. Any information that can be used to distinguish one person from another and can be used for de-anonymizing anonymous data can be considered

Protected data - See PII and PHI

Information Resource - The data and information assets of an organization, department or unit.

Safeguards - Countermeasures, controls put in place to avoid, detect, counteract, or minimize security risks to physical property, information, computer systems, or other assets. Safeguards help to reduce the risk of damage or loss by stopping, deterring, or slowing down an attack against an asset.

Sensitive data - Data that is encrypted or in plain text and contains PII or PHI data. See PII and PHI above.

6.0 Revision History

Version	Date of Revision	Author	Description of Changes
1.0	August 17, 2016	SANS Institute	Initial version
1.0			