

**Data breach potentially exposes details of millions of booking.com and  
Expedia customers**

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Millions of hotel customers' details could have potentially been **exposed**, after a software  
5 company was found to have improperly stored sensitive data.

The **breach** was uncovered by Website Planet, which found that Prestige Software, a company  
responsible for a hotel reservation system used by booking.com and Expedia, had been storing  
years' worth of credit card data from hotel guests and travel agents without any protection in  
place. The error put millions of customers at risk from fraud and online attacks.

10 Extremely sensitive data from as far back as 2013 was being incorrectly stored, with details  
including credit card and CVV numbers, full names, addresses and ID numbers of guests and  
comprehensive details about customers' reservations all unprotected.

(...)

15 More than 10 million individual log files were found to be susceptible. (...) "The number of  
consumers that have been affected by this enormous **data leak** is almost beyond  
comprehension," said Ray Walsh, digital privacy expert at ProPrivacy.

"Anybody who has made a hotel booking with these major hotel reservation platforms since  
2013 is potentially at risk. The data that was left exposed could easily be used by cybercriminals  
to launch secondary phishing attacks, or to commit fraud or identity **theft** in the future."

20 There is no evidence that cybercriminals found the data breach before the investigations team  
at Website Planet.

However, it is advising customers of any of the affected platforms to contact the company directly  
to determine what **steps** are being taken to protect their data.

25 **exposed** = exposé, laisse sans protection

**breach** = violation, infraction, vol

**data leak** = fuite de données

**theft** = vol

**steps** = mesures

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