Cyber Attack Strikes UC Health Insurer, Student Info Compromised

By Phuc Pham
Staff Writer

Anthem, the health insurer for several UC campuses, including Irvine, announced last Thursday that it was the target of a cyber attack that compromised sensitive information about its members: UC students, employees and retirees who are insured through the university’s health plan.

As the nation’s second-largest medical insurance company, Anthem is the network provider and claims administrator for students who are subscribed to the university’s health plan. Additionally, vision insurance for UCI undergraduates is covered handled by Anthem. Certain UC employees as well as retirees and their dependents were also covered by Anthem from 2003 through Jan. 1, 2014.

Compromised information included names, dates of birth, member ID numbers, Social Security numbers, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, as well as employment and income data. One upside is that students’ Social Security numbers are safe as Anthem does not possess them.

Previously, Anthem covered all 10 UC campuses. Currently, however, only students at UC San Francisco, Hastings College of Law, UC Santa Cruz, UCI, UCLA and San Diego are under Anthem’s umbrella.

Currently, it is unclear how many students and employees, who are part of a network of 80 million members, are included in the attack. Anthem will individually contact those whose information was compromised by mail, providing them with free credit monitoring and identity protection services. The company will only be using written communication to contact affected members. It will not call or email.

UC was also notified of a phishing scam that seeks to take advantage of those who may be affected by the attack. It warned members about a fake email that uses Anthem’s logo, the scam offers a year of free credit card protection.

Anthem has hired a security firm to investigate which members were affected, as well as how the attack occurred. So far, the investigation has shown no evidence that medical information, such as claims, diagnostic results or information regarding doctors and hospitals, has not been stolen. Also, the company has said that no credit card information was stolen.

According to The Wall Street Journal, the hack was facilitated by the unencrypted nature of the data. Data protected by always-on encryption is unwieldy for companies to manage, so they often strike a balance between ease of access and security. An Anthem spokeswoman told the publication that the company encrypts its data when its being transferred between different databases. When it’s residing on Anthem’s servers, however, the data is protected by elevated credential protocols, but is not encrypted.

Although federal law states that insurance companies must address data protection in their security practices, encryption is not actually mandated. Furthermore, the data required is not considered “sensitive information” by the health care industry and is therefore not covered by Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations.

“By the unencrypted nature of the data, this is a very concerning attack,” said Tim Campos, director of technology analysis for the Information Management and Security Institute. “There’s a regulatory gap here that is creating an opportunity for criminals.”

Education is the only way to prevent this type of attack, according to Campos. He suggests that universities should emphasize the importance of backing up data and not using unencrypted servers.

Cyber Security

Anthem has hired a security firm to investigate which members were affected, as well as how the attack occurred. So far, the investigation has shown no evidence that medical information, such as claims, diagnostic results or information regarding doctors and hospitals, has not been stolen. Also, the company has said that no credit card information was stolen.

According to The Wall Street Journal, the hack was facilitated by the unencrypted nature of the data. Data protected by always-on encryption is unwieldy for companies to manage, so they often strike a balance between ease of access and security. An Anthem spokeswoman told the publication that the company encrypts its data when its being transferred between different databases. When it’s residing on Anthem’s servers, however, the data is protected by elevated credential protocols, but is not encrypted.

Although federal law states that insurance companies must address data protection in their security practices, encryption is not actually mandated.

“By the unencrypted nature of the data, this is a very concerning attack,” said Tim Campos, director of technology analysis for the Information Management and Security Institute. “There’s a regulatory gap here that is creating an opportunity for criminals.”

Education is the only way to prevent this type of attack, according to Campos. He suggests that universities should emphasize the importance of backing up data and not using unencrypted servers.

Women’s Tennis

All Facey helped the Anteaters secure the doubles point on Saturday and defeated her singles opponent in straight sets.

Sports P617

Lights, Sounds and Senses:

Play in Three Acts opened last weekend at the Beall Center for Art + Technology.

By Alex Guardado
Staff Writer

Imagine art that immerses you in its creativity and interactive experience. “Play: In Three Acts” at the Beall Center for Art + Technology does just that and explores three artists’ unique take on engagement and how the body experiences art.

The opening reception was held on Saturday, Feb. 7, with performers and the highlighted artists attending. The first piece I interacted with, “Light Wave” by Joe McKay, is a two-player art installation and video game played on 24 floor lamps. McKay is a digital media artist and uses different levels of interactivity and games to highlight how our culture consumes and creates new technology.

With no set rules, his art piece has two players interact actively by hitting a pedestal with a hammer, which shoots the light through the different lamps to the second player. While fun, this installation also challenges the idea of what art really is. It’s a piece that can be enjoyed and interpreted as art and a game, pushing the boundaries and allowing even casual visitors to enjoy its unique qualities. In order to truly experience the piece, one must be active and interact with it instead of mere casual observation of typical pieces.

This theme of interactivity is present yet unique to each individual piece. The second installation is “Dark Matter” by David Rokeby. Set in a darker space, the audience must navigate an invisible sculpture of sound. While adjusting to the darkness, your body gets a heightened sense of hearing and you must probe through the giant space to gain insights to unique sounds that change as you move.

These sounds are dynamically challenging and very physical, yet appear from almost thin air as one waves their hands and move around the installation. Instead of merely using one’s eyes, which can easily be deceived and can be abstract, one must use their ears. This sense then takes on a super heightened characteristic, and creates an experience for the whole body.

Explaining his piece, David Rokeby said, “Technology increasingly make your body less relevant, and my aim is to challenge those assumptions and use computers in a way turns this concept upside down.”

The third piece, “Body

UCI Scientists Unboil Egg

Professor Greg Weiss and a team of student researchers discovered a method to unboil the proteins of cooked egg whites.

News P64

Beyond Clooney: Why Amal is More

Amal Clooney is more than her beauty and her wardrobe. A critique of how the media ignores her achievements as an international human rights lawyer.

Opinion P66

Anteater Band

Jane Page’s Resume: punctate culluptatio. Nam es sitas nonseu istrumquem nobitus, et apel magna dolor borepel magnim

Sports P616
The third piece, “Body Envelope” by Nina Waisman, is a three-dimensional space of hanging wires and sensors.

“My goal was to present a piece that centers around your peripersonal space, and how your brain maps and distinguishes everything around you,” Nina said. She described varying multidimensional products that explore the body’s space and time and its interactions with technology driven communication.

Each of the two different versions of this piece were choreographed and performed by difference dancers. There’s projecting rods, each with a different sensitivity and sound track and create a sort of musical piece on space and sound. It’s a wholly different experience than only dancing or movement because it uses every area of space and movement and amplifies what the visitor is experiencing. Surrounding the visitor with sounds ranging from the cosmos to everyday interactions like nature sounds, it makes the piece more interactive and fun to experience.

The featured piece is a sort of musical piece on space and sound. It’s a wonderful break from the repetition. The music is relaxing, even pleasant, and the subtle vocal harmonizations add a degree of musical complexity to the track. Good things don’t last with this album, however. The remaining tracks are just a stew of the mundane. The overpowered orchestrations desperately try to make beauty and luminosity out of nothing. The real beauty is Krall’s voice but that’s nowhere to be found beneath the mess of overproduction. The album’s lack of originality seems to hint that Krall may be too out of touch. While other jazz artists are evolving and clawing to keep the genre alive, Krall’s music stagnates and loses all the flair that earned her recognition in the first place. Her voice becomes overshadowed by the mundane inclusion of unnecessary scores of violins and cellos. Krall’s voice is the biggest wallflower in this dance.

The album’s lack of originality seems to hint that Krall may be too out of touch. While other jazz artists are evolving and clawing to keep the genre alive, Krall’s music stagnates and loses all the flair that earned her recognition in the first place. Her voice becomes overshadowed by the mundane inclusion of unnecessary scores of violins and cellos. Krall’s voice is the biggest wallflower in this dance.

The required courses in UC Irvine Extension’s Paralegal program are extremely practical because the work you do is exactly what you would do on the job. I was able to meet new people, learn new things, and find an amazing full-time position at a law firm.

- Katrina Lee, UCI graduate, B.S. Political Science