

Data breach revives internet safety concerns

Facebook users question the security of their personal information

by Danielle Kurensky

Although it has been over a month since the Cambridge Analytica scandal originally broke, this story continues to make the news as more information comes to light.

Despite such coverage, few Americans fully comprehend what has taken place or how this affects them and their internet security.

On Mar. 17, The New York Times broke the story that consultants for the Trump presidential campaign had hired Cambridge Analytica, a British data consulting firm, to access information on American voters and ways to influence their votes.

As the world continues to become more digital, internet security has become a much more prominent issue.

Although the significance of internet security continues to rise, few people think about their internet security on a daily basis.

This breach taking place on such a large platform is bringing the issue of security to the public's attention.

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Facebook is one of the largest social media platforms, with around two billion users. On Apr. 19, 2012, Facebook bought fellow competitor Instagram, increasing the number of users under Facebook as a parent company.

Although this has not received much media coverage, as a company owned by Facebook, Instagram's safety and policies have also been brought to question.



Cambridge Analytica gained the personal information of millions of Facebook users, raising major concerns | AP

While Facebook has lost some popularity with younger generations, Instagram continues to thrive.

Charles Porch, Instagram's global head of creative programs, said that Instagram is "horrified" with what took place

Porch claims that looking into how this breach took place and ways to future occurrences is among Instagram's top priorities.

The scandal deals with many issues, but the one most likely to affect the average person is internet safety.

The Chicago Tribune recommends deleting inactive apps, using longer passwords and, most importantly, thinking before giving away personal information on the internet.

While many of the people whose data was misused by Cambridge Analytica feel violated and lied to, they technically enabled to it by clicking agree to the terms of service.

So before users sign away personal information on the internet, they should always stop and think about the potential consequences.

While these tips do not completely ensure internet safety,

they are a good place to start.

Cambridge Analytica and Dr. Aleksandr Kogan, a psychologist at Cambridge University, were able to manipulate users and companies who presumably were not reading terms of service to access information on up to 87 million Facebook users.

Kogan created an app called "This Is Your Digital Life" where users took a personality quiz. They were told the information would go to academic research.

While only 270,000 people agreed to the terms of Kogan's app, "This Is Your Digital Life" synced to users' Facebook profiles and received information from users' digital friends as well.

This process ultimately collected data on up to 87 million Facebook users and enough data to create complete personality profiles for 30 million of those users.

With this data, Cambridge Analytica was able to target information to individuals with the intention of swaying votes towards Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election.

While many people are referring to this as a breach of information,

Facebook does not agree. The app claimed to use users' information for academic purposes, which was allowed by Facebook at the time.

The real issue arose when Cambridge Analytica gained access to this information.

Many people are now questioning their internet security the strength of internet regulations.

The selling of information clearly violated Facebook's developer policy. Yet, according to Kogan, his app was on Facebook for a year and a half and he never heard anything from Facebook about any violations.

Companies are currently working increasing user security.

But consumers should not wait for these policies to go into effect to ensure safety on the internet. They can increase their security by being smarter online.

"Damn" takes home Pulitzer

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Music review writer Doreen St. Félix of The New Yorker wrote that "The award is a bigger event for the Pulitzers than it is for Lamar, or for hip-hop's morale."

Her argument centers around the fact that only one of the 100 pieces considered by the Pulitzer committee was a hip-hop/rap piece, and that that piece happened to be the one that won.

This confused some, given that hip-hop surpassed rock as the most popular music genre in America last year, according to Forbes Magazine.

St. Félix, along with some other prominent music reviewers, claimed that the Pulitzer awarded this prize to Lamar more to boost their own relevance than for his musical excellence.

However, others believe Lamar won the prize strictly for his groundbreaking album, as was seen with the outpour of congratulations all over Twitter from various prominent musicians and public figures. The excitement for the American award has been voiced internationally as well as at home.

Sophomore Isaac Quentin said, "I think the album was very well made and was deserving of the prize."

"The lyrics in the raps were very real," Yoo said of the album that went double-platinum last year.

The most popular song of the album, "HUMBLE," remained on top of Billboard's Hot 100 list for five weeks straight.

While this may have been Lamar's best-known track, most of the other songs of the album were also hits. "In his new album, 'LOYALTY' stood out to me the most because of the sound of his voice, hushed and chill," said Quentin.

Noel, who particularly liked the track "LOVE," noted that he liked the album because Lamar "has good flow," and is therefore deserving of the award.

"He rapped from his heart and his raps were very genuine," said Yoo.

#HashtagLunchBag a new Spring Service-Learning opportunity

Freshmen partner with organization to help fight hunger in Chicago

by Molly George

For the past few years, freshmen on the Northfield Campus have been partnering with the #HashtagLunchbag organization as part of their Spring Service-Learning Initiative (SSLI).

The organization works through social media to close the food gap in Chicago and across the country to pack lunches for those facing hunger.

According to their website. "#HashtagLunchbag is a humanity service movement dedicated to empowering and inspiring humanity to reap the benefits of giving through the use of social media."

Service learning coordinator and science teacher Sarah Utley has been leading this effort at the Northfield campus.

"There are five different themes for the project and, in advisory, students are having discussions, watching short videos, reading articles, researching, and participating in direct service opportunities to participate in the project," said Utley.



Freshmen made encouraging signs to go along with packed lunches as a part of the service learning project | Novak

#HashtagLunchbag NewTrier participants include the Glencoe Community Garden, Northern Illinois Food Bank and the New Trier Township Food Pantry.

Additionally, a Pantry Palooza will be hosted on the Northfield Campus on May 8 to collect non-perishable food items for the New Trier Township Food Pantry.

This big advisory event is comparable to Spring Fest at the West campus. Whatever funds are collected will go toward addressing hunger in Chicago.

On May 12, freshmen will

prepare 1500 fresh lunches for those the organization serves.

"Since the campus opened, it has had a history of service. Projects centered around Angola, Haiti and India. A few years ago, we decided to stay local and focus on hunger in Chicagoland," Utley explained.

This is the second year students have been involved in direct service, meaning they will all be traveling to the service site for the project.

Julie Novak, a social service sponsor and librarian at the Winnetka campus, has also participated in the organization of the event. "This is

the first year for this entire hunger in Chicagoland project. We want it to be about doing actual work close to home, so we're keeping it connected to our community for the freshmen," she said

Although formally a freshmen event only, this year the project took the place of other individual projects that sophomores previously participated in for the Sophomore Day of Service. Sophomore adviser chair Ted Kouletes explained the purpose of involving sophomores in a unified service project.

"The old service model was to

let advisories go out and do individual service projects, and there was no real consistency." Creating a more unified event "makes the experience even more valuable," said Kouletes.

Each sophomore advisory attended a presentation aimed towards educating students on homelessness and hunger before packing 75 lunches and hygiene kits.

#HashtagLunchbag hosted the event, and participating sophomores made 3000 lunches.

Quest food services also helped by providing the food supplies.

Additionally, the Stepan chemical company donated repurposed soaps and Susan Kwon in the art department contributed to the purchase of socks in bulk for the hygiene kits.

After involving so many students as well as many community members, Kouletes hopes to boost participation for the upcoming event. "I hope the kids who liked it will participate and promote the project in May," he said.

"Our goal is to make students aware of those in need (regarding hunger) in our local community and Chicagoland as a whole," said Utley.

"A lot of people get to do work that's meaningful and mutually beneficial," added Novak.