

Activity 1.1.3 - Have YOU Been Pwned?

Apply the Have I Been Pwned tool to check whether an email address has appeared in any data breaches and use the information to increase online security.

A. Inventory - guesstimate how many of the following types of accounts you currently have:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Social Media | how many? _____ | Ex: Facebook, Instagram, TikTok |
| 2. Gaming/Networking | how many? _____ | Ex: Steam, Discord, forums |
| 3. Shopping | how many? _____ | Ex: Amazon, Etsy, coupon sites |
| 4. Entertainment | how many? _____ | Ex: Netflix, Hulu, AppleTV... |
| 5. Other | how many? _____ | Ex: Hobbies, Subscriptions... |
| TOTAL _____ | | |

6. How many email addresses do you have? _____

B. Breaches - go to the Have I Been Pwned? website <https://haveibeenpwned.com/> and enter each of your email addresses to see if it has been found in any data breaches.

- For each email address, in the space below write down the number of times it was found in a data breach. Do NOT write down the email address, just the number.
- Once you have looked up all your email addresses, add up all the numbers. What is the total number of data breaches in which your addresses were found? _____
- For those breached accounts, how many were using a unique password? _____
(unique = a password that is used only for one account)

Reflection: stolen user databases include both the username - usually an email address - and the password for that account. This means that any account using the same credentials will be vulnerable to a credential stuffing account.

For example, I log into Amazon with username: bgrad202@school.edu and password: qwerty5678. Then I create an account at Discord (and lots of other sites!) using the same email address and password. If the Discord user database is breached, then a credential stuffing account would be able to access my Amazon account even though Amazon is secure and hasn't been breached.

To protect against credential stuffing attacks use a unique password for every account. This is very difficult to do manually but easy with a password manager.