Michaels Stores and Aaron Brothers Announce Massive Data Breach

April 21, 2014 - Michaels, a retail chain of arts and crafts stores has announced a massive data breach affecting more than 3 million credit and debit cards. One of the company's subsidiaries, Aaron Brothers, announced a separate data breach affecting as many as 400,000 additional cards. Both data breaches took place over a period of months, beginning in 2013 and ending early this year.

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The Michaels breach occurred between May 8, 2013 and January 27, 2014. Although the company has said that 3 million credit and debit cards may have had their numbers compromised, the company has said that hackers were not able to access additional personally identifiable information. Nor were they able to access debit card PIN numbers. This significantly reduces the risk of fraud or identity theft from this breach.

The Aaron Brothers breach occurred between June 26, 2013 and February 27, 2014.That cyberattack affected 54 of the company's stores.

Consumers who shopped at either Michaels or Aaron Brothers during the times listed above should carefully check their credit and bank card statements for fraudulent charges. Any unauthorized charges should be reported to their credit card companies or banks.
byJim Malmberg
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