Twitter Wants You to Change Your Password NOW

May 4, 2018 - Twitter's Chief Technology Officer, Parag Agrawal, made a blog posting yesterday in which he announced a data breach of Twitter passwords. He wrote, "When you set a password for your Twitter account, we use technology that masks it so no one at the company can see it. We recently identified a bug that stored passwords unmasked in an internal log. We have fixed the bug, and our investigation shows no indication of breach or misuse by anyone."

Tweet

```
(function() {
var s = document.createElement('SCRIPT'), s1 = document.getElementsByTagName('SCRIPT')[0];
s.type = 'text/javascript';
s.src = 'http://widgets.digg.com/buttons.js';
s1.parentNode.insertBefore(s, s1);
})();
```

```
(function() {
  var po = document.createElement('script'); po.type = 'text/javascript'; po.async = true;
  po.src = 'https://apis.google.com/js/plusone.js';
  var s = document.getElementsByTagName('script')[0]; s.parentNode.insertBefore(po, s);
})();
```

This is no small undertaking. Twitter has more than three hundred million users. To make matters even more complicated, the company isn't asking users to just change their Twitter password. They are also asking users to change their passwords on any other website with which they use the same password as they do on Twitter. Agrawal went on to say, "Out of an abundance of caution, we ask that you consider changing your password on all services where you've used this password. You can change your Twitter password anytime by going to the password settings page."

Anyone wishing to change their password can do so by going to twitter.com and clicking on their small picture on the upper right side of the page. This will take you to a settings page. On the left side of that page, you'll find a navigation pane. The second item down is "Password." Click on it, enter your current password and then enter your new password.

After making the change, you should do the same thing on any other sites with which you shared your Twitter password. Of course, you really should use a different password on them.

While a stolen Twitter user name and password certainly isn't enough for someone to commit identity theft, if you used the same password on a bank or brokerage account, that's another story. It is probably wise to follow the company's advice on this issue.
byJim Malmberg
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