



WHAT IS DOXING AND WHY SHOULD YOU CARE

Let's start with a definition. Doxing, or doxxing is a cyber-attack that makes public the personal or private information of someone. The targets used to be only the wealthy or famous. The growth of private information on the web have made everyone a target.

The term doxing comes from the source of much of the information, stolen documents, or docs, that contain your name, address, social security number, telephone number, and more.

You need to be concerned because the release of your private information opens you up to identity theft, credit card theft, driver's license theft, and physical attack. The information made public may be opinions that you intended to be private. These can affect your reputation and possibly your employment.

Doxing is not theoretical. Over 40 million Americans have reported being victims.

One thing to remember is that doxing, unlike other cybercrimes, is motivated by revenge. Someone is angry and wants to get back at you. It may be due to something you posted, or a comment made online. It doesn't have to be someone you know well or even know at all.

Where do doxers get your information? A variety of places. It may be your social media accounts or other public sources. Or they may have sent a phishing email that downloaded malware onto your computer.

Prevention is the best approach against doxing. Don't post anything on social media that you want to keep private. Don't rely on the privacy settings to keep your information private. If you don't post it, no one can steal it.

If you become a victim and the doxer wants to meet, do not do it alone. Do not do it at all. Remember, this person wants revenge. Retain all the communications and the information they disclosed. Report it to the police and file a complaint. While gathering publicly available information isn't illegal, using it to intimidate, harass, bully, or threaten someone may be illegal. Buying stolen information or hacking a device is illegal.

Contact the sites where it was released and request that it be taken down.

Protect your information using techniques discussed in our Insights and on our site.

You might also consider wiping your information from the web. If you aren't familiar with how to do it, investigate services that offer this.

Remember doxing is not an innocent or minor crime. It has led to deaths in some instances. In another incident a person was mistakenly identified and received so many threats he and his family had to hide at a different location until the threats subsided.

Are you ready to get serious about protecting your assets and your company? Contact onebrightlycyber at info@onebrightlycyber.com or call (888) 773-1920.