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DOJ files 7 new charges against alleged Capital One hacker

Carly Page

@carlypage_ / 1:48 AM GMT+9:30 • July 1, 2021



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The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has filed seven new charges against Paige Thompson, the Services (AWS) engineer accused of [hacking Capital One](#) and stealing the personal data of more than 100 million Americans.

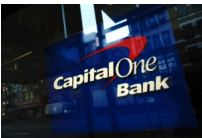
The new charges, which include six counts of computer fraud and abuse and one count of access to protected computer, were revealed in [court documents](#) filed earlier this month, obtained by [The Record](#). The previous indictment with one count each of wire fraud and computer crime and abuse, which meant she faced five years in prison or up to \$250,000. As a result of the additional charges, Thompson now faces up to 20 years of jail.

The superseding indictment has also expanded the number of victimized companies from the four in the original indictment to eight. In addition to Capital One, a U.S. state agency, a U.S. public research university, a telecommunications conglomerate, the list now includes a data and threat protection company, a company that specializes in digital rights management (DRM), a provider of higher education learning technology, and a center solutions. The companies have not been named, but [security firm CyberInt previously said](#) that Michigan State University and the Ohio Department of Transportation may all be victims of the breach.

Thompson, who used the handle "erratic" online and was identified after boasting about her activities, is accused of using her knowledge from her previous employment as a software engineer at Amazon to identify which customers of a cloud computing company (the indictment doesn't name the company, but [identified as Amazon Web Services](#)) had misconfigured firewalls. Once the tool found its target network, she allegedly exploited it to extract privileged account credentials.

The prior indictment alleges that once Thompson gained access to victims' cloud infrastructure using a tool, she then accessed and downloaded data to a server at her residence in Seattle. It remains unclear whether any information was passed to third parties.

Capital One replaces security chief after data breach



Capital One has replaced its cybersecurity chief four months after the company disclosed a massive data breach involving sensitive data on more than 100 million customers. A spokesperson for Capital One confirmed the news in an email to TechCrunch. "Michael Johnson is moving from his role as chief information security officer to ... Continue reading



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In the case of the [Capital One](#) breach, which the company confirmed in July 2019, the stolen data included credit card applications, which included names, addresses, phone numbers, and dates of birth, a Security numbers, 80,000 bank account numbers, and some credit scores and transaction data. [its cybersecurity chief four months after the incident](#), was [fined \\$80 million](#) in August 2020 for the failure to keep its users' financial data secure.

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Prosecutors also allege that Thompson copied and stole data from at least 30 entities in total that provided her with access to the data, and claim that, in some cases, she used this access to set up cryptocurrency mining on computing power – a [practice known as cryptojacking](#).

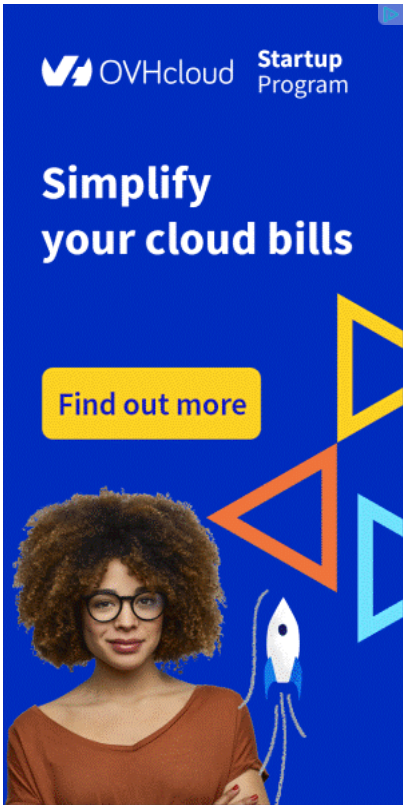
Thompson pleaded not guilty and was released on pre-trial bond in August 2019. She was initially scheduled to go to trial in November 2019, but the trial was delayed to March 2020 due to the huge amount of information that needed to be analyzed.

The trial was later rescheduled to October 2020 due to the pandemic, then to June 2021, then to [March 14, 2022](#), with prosecutors still citing the need for more time to analyze the data collected.

Capital One replaces security chief after data breach

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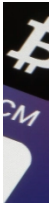
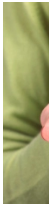
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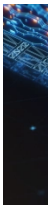
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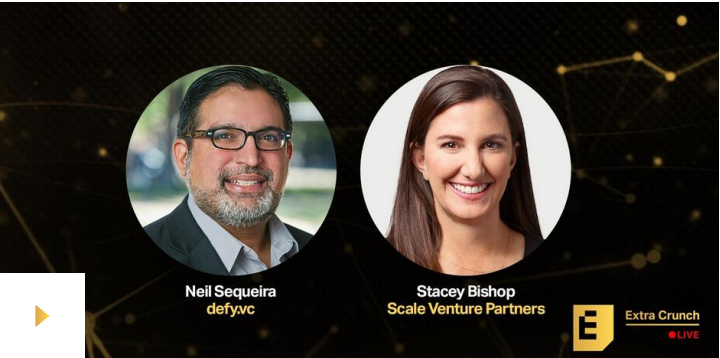
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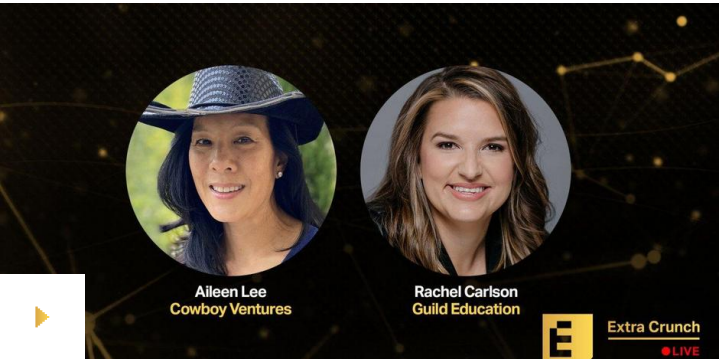
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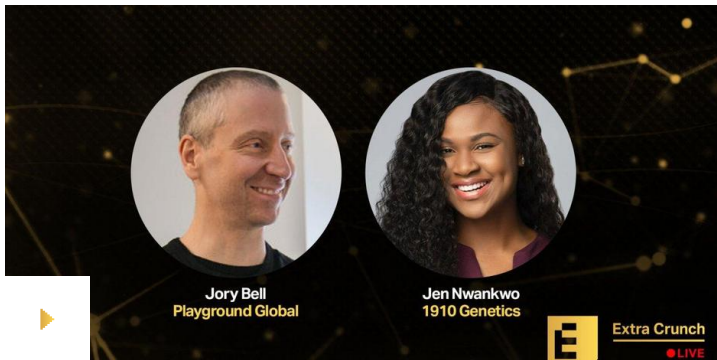
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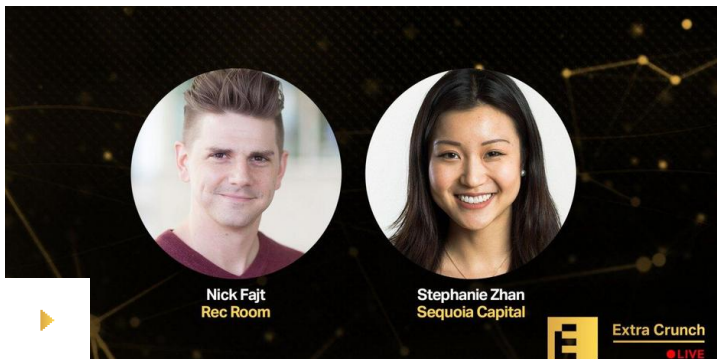
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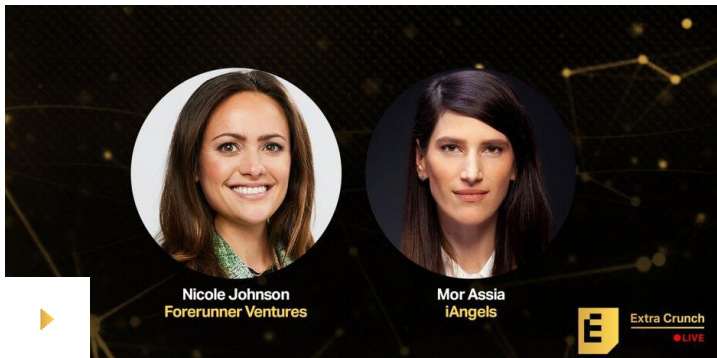
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