



## **Equifax Says Cyberattack May Have Affected 143 Million in the U.S.**

Equifax, one of the three major consumer credit reporting agencies, said on Thursday that hackers had gained access to company data that potentially compromised sensitive information for 143 million American consumers, including Social Security numbers and driver's license numbers.

The attack on the company represents one of the largest risks to personally sensitive information in recent years, and is the third major cybersecurity threat for the agency since 2015.

Criminals gained access to certain files in the company's system from mid-May to July by exploiting a weak point in website software, according to an investigation by Equifax and security consultants. The company said that it discovered the intrusion on July 29 and has since found no evidence of unauthorized activity on its main consumer or commercial credit reporting databases. To place a freeze on your credit bureaus, follow the links below. Some do charge a fee to place a freeze and charge a fee to remove it also.

Firstly, go to

[https://www.freeze.equifax.com/Freeze/jsp/SFF\\_PersonalIDInfo.jsp](https://www.freeze.equifax.com/Freeze/jsp/SFF_PersonalIDInfo.jsp) and complete the freeze for Equifax. They will give you a 10 digit PIN to use to remove or thaw the freeze. So, don't lose it. Store it with your other important stuff.

Next, go to <https://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html> and complete the freeze for Experian.

Finally, go to <http://www.transunion.com/personal-credit/credit-disputes/credit-freezes.page> and complete the freeze for TransUnion.