

Heartland security breach not local

Credit-card names, numbers exposed

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ADVERTISEMENT Employees at Heartland Payment Systems in Southern Indiana were not responsible for a security breach at the company that exposed the names and credit-card numbers of customers, a spokesman said yesterday.

The breach also shouldn't have any negative long-term impact on the approximately 550 people who work at the processing center in Jeffersonville, spokesman Jason Maloni said in an interview.

The facility, off Port Road and Ind. 62, is primarily a call center, and Maloni said there could be additional call volume in the coming weeks from customers concerned about the status of their financial information.

Technology security experts predicted this week that the breach could set a record. Retail giant TJX lost 94 million customer records to hackers in 2007. With more than 100 million transactions per month at Heartland, the New Jersey-based company could discover that several months' worth of transactions were captured, said Michael Maloof, chief technology officer at TriGeo Network Security.

Heartland President Robert H.B. Baldwin Jr. said the company found evidence of the intrusion last week and immediately notified federal law enforcement officials as well as Visa and MasterCard.

Baldwin said the only information breached involved card numbers and cardholders' names, or one or the other. Heartland processes card payments for restaurants, retailers and other merchants, including banks. Shares of the company's stock lost 42 percent of their value yesterday, closing at a 52-week low of \$8.18.

The bug that was used to access the company's data is "very sophisticated," Maloni said, but Heartland is taking steps to address the problem.

"Everything is on the table, and we're going to look at what we need to do to have the best security possible."

Reporter Alex Davis can be reached at (502) 582-4644.

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