

Gazettenet.com, Big hack attack: LinkedIn's password mess.... (6.13.12)

I am not a member of LinkedIn, the website that's a huge networking and recruiting site (160 million members and counting) for people in the business world. And while I wouldn't mind being in the company of some of its very big names, right now I'm glad I'm a LinkedIn Luddite.

Last week hackers stole the passwords of 6.5 million LinkedIn members, and then posted some of them online at a site frequented by the hacker "community."

Security on LinkedIn was shockingly unsophisticated, according to The New York Times. From the Times story: "The breach highlights a disturbing truth about LinkedIn's computer security: there isn't much."

That wasn't the end of the story. LinkedIn contacted its members by email to advise them of the breach and ask them to reset their passwords. Hackers saw that as yet another opportunity, and some sent out emails purporting to be official messages from LinkedIn that were actually just phishing expeditions. Forbes magazine blogger Samantha Sharf wrote "users could have received emails from LinkedIn, emails from hackers or emails from both."

LinkedIn has posted a notice to members with all the usual advice about composing complex passwords and changing them frequently. You know what to do.