



VOL. 32 NUMBER 1 January 2018

# MONEY Matters



## How to Protect Yourself from the Massive Equifax Hack

The bad news is that there's a good chance your personal information was stolen during the massive data hack of Equifax, one of America's three largest credit reporting agency. The thieves stole the social security numbers, dates of birth, names and addresses of 143 million Americans—that's about 60% of the adult population of the United States.

This is particularly dangerous because with that information, the thieves could steal your identity to take out new loans in your name, alter your existing accounts, and ruin your good credit. But the good news is...well, there isn't much good news to a hack of this size.

Still, if you act quickly, it's possible you can protect yourself. Here are the steps you need to take sooner rather than later.

1. Find out if your information was compromised. Visit <https://www.equifaxsecurity2017.com/potential-impact/> and click the "check potential impact" button.
2. If it says your information was likely stolen, at a minimum you should sign up for the free credit monitoring Equifax is offering for a year.

But that level of protection likely isn't enough. The thieves still have your personal information and could use it to apply to lenders who don't use Equifax. Also, because the thieves have your social security number, they could wait and use it a year or five or ten years from now—unless America totally rethinks the system it uses to identify everyone, that still leaves you vulnerable.

Here are some other steps you should consider taking, adapted from the Federal Trade Commissions recommendations:

- Start checking your your credit reports from Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion — for free — by visiting [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com). You can check each one time a year for free. Space them out in four month intervals, so you're regularly getting up-to-date information. If you see evidence of identity theft, visit [IdentityTheft.gov](http://IdentityTheft.gov) to find out what to do.
- Consider placing a credit freeze on your files. A credit freeze makes it harder for someone to open a new account in your name. A credit freeze won't prevent a thief from making charges to your existing accounts, but implementing a freeze at all three of the major credit bureaus means they won't be able to issue a report to any company that doesn't already have you as a customer, making it harder for the thieves to use your information to open a new line of credit. You can unfreeze it with a special PIN when you want to apply for a new loan.
- Monitor your existing credit card and bank accounts closely for charges you don't recognize.
- If you decide against a credit freeze, consider placing a fraud alert on your files. A fraud alert warns creditors that you may be an identity theft victim and that they should verify that anyone seeking credit in your name really is you.
- File your taxes early — as soon as you have the tax information you need, before a scammer can. Tax identity theft happens when someone uses your social security number to get a tax refund or a job. Respond right away to letters from the IRS.

By putting a freeze on your accounts, checking your credit reports regularly, and monitoring activity on your existing accounts, you'll be doing everything you can to protect yourself.



*The Thirty-Second Annual Meeting of Germania Credit Union will be February 13, 2018 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Germania home office. Following the meeting, door prizes will be drawn and refreshments will be served. Our members are our strength, your participation assures that we will continue as a strong credit union with a bright future.*

## Board of Directors Names Nominating Committee

The following members were appointed by the Board of Directors to serve on the Nominating Committee at the Thirty-First Annual Meeting: Ted Duckworth, Tina Mikeska and Liz Broesche.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for nominating at least one member for each vacancy on the Board of Directors, including any unexpired term, for which elections are to be held.

The Nominating Committee will place the names of the members they have selected into nomination before the membership at the annual meeting. They will advise the Chairman of the Board as to their selections no later than three days before the meeting so that ballots can be prepared.



**If you move or change your address, don't forget to update your information with the Credit Union!**

**Please provide us with your email address for added convenience.**

# 2018



## Statement Of Accounts To Be Mailed By Audit Committee

The Audit Committee of the Credit Union is required by law to audit credit union records periodically. As of December 31, 2017, the audit committee will be distributing or mailing statements of account on or about January 10, 2018. Your statement should contain a certification notice in the upper right corner. If you do not receive your statement of verification or your notice is missing, please contact the Audit Committee by writing: Shawn Cardwell, JRBT Auditor, 5400 Bosque Blvd, Suite 500, Waco, TX 76710, by email [shawn\\_cardwell@jrbt.com](mailto:shawn_cardwell@jrbt.com) or by calling 254-776-4190.

## Office Hours:

Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
(No transactions after 4:00 pm)  
Germania Credit Union will be closed Monday, January 1st & Friday, March 30th in observance of New Year's Day & Good Friday.

## Current Rates:

Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for Regular Share Accounts is accurate as of 12-31-2017.

### Regular Share Account

Dividend Rate..... 0.025%

APY ..... 0.025%

Contact the credit union for further information about applicable rates, fees and terms.

## Statistics:

(as of November 30, 2017)

Assets ..... \$10,711,321

Shares ..... \$9,262,128

Loans ..... \$6,829,035

Members ..... 2466

## Board of Directors

Rick Blundell, Jr., Chairman  
Richard Grimmer, Vice Chairman  
Trey Hardy, Treasurer  
Sandy Wellbrock, Secretary  
William Boer  
Howard Tomlinson  
Lisa Eben  
Traci Bagley  
Jeff Smestuen

## Staff

C.W. Barker, President  
Janet Mantey  
Jo Lynne Goldberg  
Chelsea Lozano



[www.germaniacreditunion.com](http://www.germaniacreditunion.com)

