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Home Depot to pay \$19.5M to settle consumer claims in 2014 breach

By ERIN AYERS, Advisen

Home Depot will pay up to \$19.5 million to settle consumer class action lawsuits filed over the home improvement retailer's 2014 data breach, according to documents filed in federal court.

The 2014 breach involved the exposure of up to 56 million payment cards as well as 53 million email addresses. Hackers used stolen credentials from a third-party vendor to access Home Depot's system and then deployed malware to self-checkout systems at stores in the US and Canada, the retailer stated in a 2014 press release.

According to the settlement, Home Depot will pay \$13 million into a pool to pay claims from consumers affected by the breach. Another \$6.5 million will be paid to provide identity theft monitoring services to claimants. The settlement also requires Home Depot to invest in employee training, enhanced security measures, and installing a chief information security officer.

"We're working to put the litigation behind us and this was the most expeditious path, but it's not an admission of liability and our customers have been our primary focus throughout. It's important to note that customers were not responsible for fraudulent charges," said Stephen Holmes, spokesman for Home Depot, in an email to

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