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BUSINESS

Hyatt Says Its Payment-Processing Systems Were Breached

Becomes latest hotel operator to report a hit to its credit and debit-card processing systems

By **AUSTEN HUFFORD**

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Hyatt Hotels Inc. said it was investigating a breach of its payment-processing systems, becoming the latest hotel operator to report a hit to its credit and debit-card processing systems.

In November, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc. and Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc. both separately reported similar malware infections of their systems.

Hyatt said Wednesday that it recently discovered malware on its payment-processing systems for Hyatt-managed locations. The company has since hired cybersecurity officials and strengthened the security of its system.

The company didn't say how many properties were affected or for how long they were infected. In contrast, Starwood said its data breach lasted nearly eight months and affected 54 locations.

Hyatt did say customers "can feel confident" using credit and debit cards at its 627 properties worldwide. The company added that the investigation is ongoing, and updates will be posted on the "protecting our customers" section of its website.

Consumers aren't liable for unauthorized purchases made on their cards, but hackers can sometimes use the information to create counterfeit cards.

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