

<http://www.pocket-lint.com/news/25600/twitter-threatens-legal-proceedings-leak>

## Sites could face legal action over Twitter leak

Publishing stolen documents could land web in trouble

by Stuart Miles published on 15 July 2009

Twitter has moved to quell reports that its micro-blogging service was hacked again, issuing a statement about a hacker offering internal documents to various industry publications.

"It's important to note that the stolen documents which were downloaded and offered to various blogs and publications are not Twitter user accounts nor were any user accounts compromised. This was not a hack on the Twitter service, it was a personal attack followed by the theft of private company documents", said co-founder Biz Stone on the company's blog.

The secrets, which broke on Wednesday highlight how big the company has got and the pressure it faces in the media spotlight.

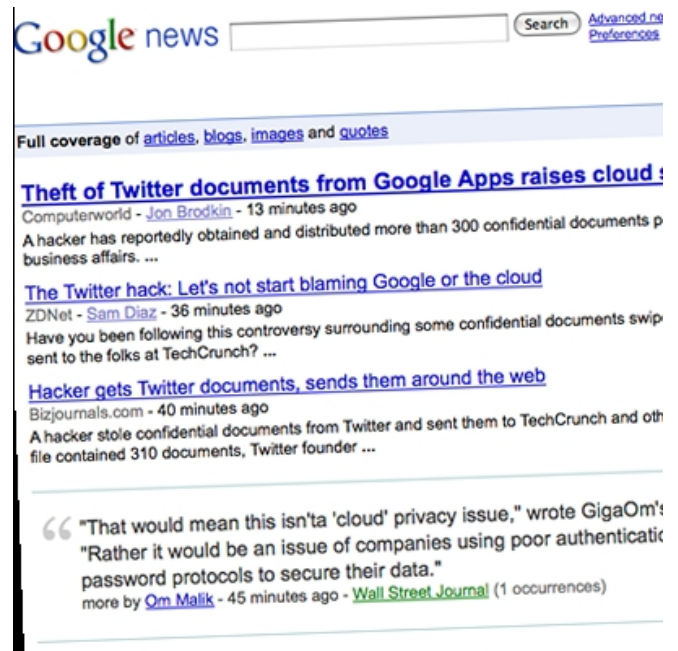
However the publications, which chose to run the story, could face legal proceedings.

"We are in touch with our legal counsel about what this theft means for Twitter, the hacker, and anyone who accepts and subsequently shares or publishes these stolen documents", confirmed Stone.

Clearly upset by the incident, Stone concedes they could "jeopardize relationships with Twitter's ongoing and potential partners".

The story broke on Wednesday morning with an industry website opting to announce that it would publish the stories in an attempt to gain publicity. The move, strongly condemned by the industry, could land the site in serious trouble if Twitter proceeds with court action.

Is a website justified in publishing stolen documents? Let us know what you think in the



The screenshot shows a Google News search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Google news" and a search button. To the right of the search bar are links for "Advanced search" and "Preferences". Below the search bar, there is a blue bar with the text "Full coverage of articles, blogs, images and quotes". The main content area displays several search results. The first result is titled "Theft of Twitter documents from Google Apps raises cloud" and is attributed to "Computerworld - Jon Brodtkin - 13 minutes ago". The snippet below the title reads: "A hacker has reportedly obtained and distributed more than 300 confidential documents p business affairs. ...". The second result is titled "The Twitter hack: Let's not start blaming Google or the cloud" and is attributed to "ZDNet - Sam Diaz - 36 minutes ago". The snippet below the title reads: "Have you been following this controversy surrounding some confidential documents swip sent to the folks at TechCrunch? ...". The third result is titled "Hacker gets Twitter documents, sends them around the web" and is attributed to "Bizjournals.com - 40 minutes ago". The snippet below the title reads: "A hacker stole confidential documents from Twitter and sent them to TechCrunch and oth file contained 310 documents, Twitter founder ...". At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a quote: "That would mean this isn't a 'cloud' privacy issue," wrote GigaOm: "Rather it would be an issue of companies using poor authenticat password protocols to secure their data." This quote is attributed to "Om Malik - 45 minutes ago - Wall Street Journal (1 occurrences)".

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