

Qatar National Bank (QNB) Data Breach (2016):

- What did attackers break into?

Attackers infiltrated Qatar National Bank's systems, leaking approximately 1.4 GB of internal documents that included passwords, PINs, credit card info, account details, and corporate files. Sensitive data related to government officials and media figures was also exposed.

- How did the attackers break into it?

The exact method remains undisclosed. Speculation points to possibilities such as phishing, exploiting vulnerabilities within QNB's systems, or insider involvement.

- Who was impacted?

Hundreds of thousands of QNB customers including individual and corporate clients were affected. In particular, data belonging to government representatives, media personnel (including Al Jazeera), and defense officials was compromised.

- How was it investigated?

QNB carried out an internal investigation, working alongside third-party cybersecurity experts to assess the breach and its scope. Forensic analysis was used to identify potential vulnerabilities and limit further risks. The bank reassured clients that there was no financial loss, though privacy and reputational damage was acknowledged.

Qatar News Agency (QNA) Cyberattack (May 2017):

- What did attackers break into?

Hackers breached the Qatar News Agency's systems including its website and social media to publish fabricated statements allegedly attributed to the Emir, expressing support for Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah, and Israel.

- How did the attackers break into it?

While methods were not officially confirmed, investigations suggested the involvement of scanning for vulnerabilities and likely social engineering or web exploitation tactics.

- Who was impacted?

The attack triggered a full-blown diplomatic crisis: days later, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Egypt, Yemen, Libya, and the Maldives severed ties and imposed a blockade on Qatar.

- How was it investigated?

The FBI deployed investigators to Doha to assist. Initial U.S. intelligence suspected Russian hackers, though further findings pointed toward possible involvement by the UAE, which denied the claims. Authorities also arrested five suspects in Turkey in August 2017.