



Alvarado, Kristine <alvarado.k@beaconk12.org>

## Fwd: 6 emails on beaconk12.org have been pwned in the Sphero data breach

1 message

Welsh, Scott <welsh.s@beaconk12.org>  
To: "Alvarado, Kristine" <alvarado.k@beaconk12.org>

Fri, Apr 12, 2024 at 12:34 PM

Sphero Data Breach

### Scott Welsh

Director of Technology  
Beacon City School District  
Office: 845-838-6900 x3395  
Cell: 845-219-0205

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Adamcek, Michael** <adamcek.m@beaconk12.org>  
Date: Mon, Oct 23, 2023 at 8:38 AM  
Subject: Fwd: 6 emails on beaconk12.org have been pwned in the Sphero data breach  
To: Welsh, Scott <welsh.s@beaconk12.org>, Dick, Amy <dick.a@beaconk12.org>, Bailey Moore <moore.b@beaconk12.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Have I Been Pwned** <noreply@haveibeenpwned.com>  
Date: Fri, Oct 20, 2023 at 3:31 AM  
Subject: 6 emails on beaconk12.org have been pwned in the Sphero data breach  
To: <adamcek.m@beaconk12.org>

## An email on a domain you're monitoring has been pwned

You signed up for notifications when emails on **beaconk12.org** were pwned in a data breach and unfortunately, it's happened. Here's what's known about the breach:

**Breach:** Sphero  
**Date of breach:** 9 Sep 2023  
**Accounts found:** 832,255  
**Your accounts:** 6  
**Compromised data:** Dates of birth, Email addresses, Geographic locations, Names, Usernames  
**Description:** In September 2023, over 1M rows of data from the educational robots company Sphero was posted to a popular hacking forum. The data contained 832k unique email addresses alongside names, usernames, dates of birth and geographic locations.

You can see which of the accounts you're monitoring were compromised and manage your domains via the domain search dashboard.

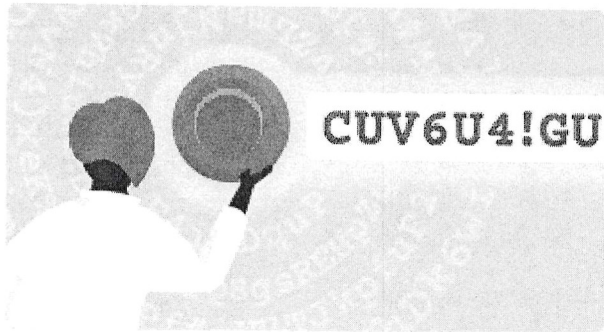
Go to domain search dashboard

**Why are you only hearing about this now?** Whilst the breach occurred in September, sometimes there can be a lengthy lead time of months or even years before the data is disclosed publicly. Have I Been Pwned will always attempt to alert you ASAP, it's just a question of how readily available the data is.

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## 2 Steps to Better Password Security

Monitoring Have I Been Pwned for data breaches is a great start, now try these next 2 steps to protect all your accounts:



**Step 1:** Protect yourself with strong, unique passwords for each website with the 1Password password manager

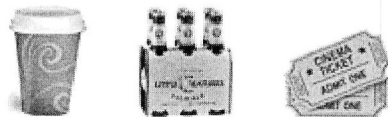


**Step 2:** Enable 2 factor authentication and store the codes inside your 1Password account

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## Donate to Have I Been Pwned

If you loved this free service and want to know what goes into making it possible, have a read of the donations page. Buy me a coffee or a beer or just some time with the kids at a movie.



haveibeenpwned.com

A troyhunt.com project



Alvarado, Kristine <alvarado.k@beaconk12.org>

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## Fwd: Data Privacy Incident: Sphero

1 message

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**Welsh, Scott** <welsh.s@beaconk12.org>  
To: "Alvarado, Kristine" <alvarado.k@beaconk12.org>

Fri, Apr 12, 2024 at 12:37 PM

Sphero Data Breach

### Scott Welsh

Director of Technology  
Beacon City School District  
Office: 845-838-6900 x3395  
Cell: 845-219-0205

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nicholas Lizzo** <nicholas.lizzo@dcbooces.org>  
Date: Wed, Nov 29, 2023 at 2:36 PM  
Subject: Data Privacy Incident: Sphero  
To: Welsh, Scott <welsh.s@beaconk12.org>

Scott,

I was just handed info from Erie 1 BOCES, it looks like there was a data breach at Sphero. I went through the software inventory list and Sphero was listed there. I believe Saggy currently has the official DPO title so it's up to you or her on how to proceed (I don't think I have her email but I do know she needs to be alerted to the incident). Below is the contact info for Sphero. It's recommended that someone from Beacon contact Brian on behalf of the district and found out what data may have been breached (and possible who specifically is affected). I can help contact them too in that endeavor (for that I probably need Saggy's email though). If it happens to be no one from your district everything should be fine otherwise Ed Law 2-D has a notification clause, in which case either I or Michelle (from Erie 1, contact info below) can help with next steps. There's an Unauthorized Disclosure Form which I've attached which can be posted where/if needed (I'll double check with Michelle; it may just be an internal memo, it could be recommended to post to a school website, etc). Just let me know if you're still using Sphero and how you want to proceed.

Sphero's contact info:

#### **Brian Kellner**

VP of Engineering

brian.kellner@sphero.com

Main Sphero Office: (303) 502-9466

Direct: (720) 427-3469

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**From:** NYS Instructional Technology Contract Consortium <NYSITCC@LISTSERV.WNYRIC.ORG> on behalf of Okal-Frink, Michelle <mokal@E1B.ORG>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:48 PM

**To:** NYSITCC@LISTSERV.WNYRIC.ORG

**Subject:** [NYSITCC] Sphero - More info and some good news

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi all,

I spoke with Sphero last night. In many cases no student data was ever entered into the system.

When the robots are used in a classroom or afterschool setting the teacher often sets up the online account with their own info or a dummy account.

This means in many cases there is no release of student data because none was entered into the system.

We here are Erie 1 BOCES were part of the disclosure. When I checked the information in the system it was all trainers who had created logins for themselves to use during training and demoing of the robots. There was no release of student data.

Again, as I mentioned this is why is so very important to understand how the robots were being used and what data was likely entered.

You can email Brian and request a phone call to determine what was released. When I spoke to him he informed me that only 11 accounts were identified for Erie 1 BOCES. Your DPO is welcome to identify how they want him to provide the data when they email him or call him.

Just a reminder, you need to provide the information about the possible unauthorized disclosure to your school districts and BOCES DPOs listed (if you are unaware of who the DPO is you can communicate with the Tech Director to find out that info) so they are able to communicate with Sphero. I will not be adding all DPOs to a list serv or fielding calls from DPOs as I do not have the data that was released only Sphero has that. Please be sure to let the DPO know that I have been working with SED and they should not submit an unauthorized release form to SED as this is covered for them through the consortium.

If you have specific questions please email me and I will set up a time to talk. I have some time on Friday blocked for your questions. I know this is the first time many of you have dealt with a breach and may need assistance.



**Michelle  
Okal-Frink**

*(she/her)*

**Director:  
WNYRIC  
Business  
Continuity,  
Research &  
Innovation**

WNYRIC/Technology  
Services

Erie 1 BOCES

355 Harlem Road

West Seneca, NY  
14224

Email:  
mokal@e1b.org

Phone: 716-821-  
7200

Mobile: 716-374-  
5460

Website: [wnyric.org](http://wnyric.org)

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 **Improper Disclose Complaint - Template.pdf**

735K



Alvarado, Kristine <alvarado.k@beaconk12.org>

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## Fwd: Beacon Central School District Data Breach

1 message

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**Welsh, Scott** <welsh.s@beaconk12.org>  
To: "Alvarado, Kristine" <alvarado.k@beaconk12.org>

Fri, Apr 12, 2024 at 12:35 PM

Sphero Data Breach

### Scott Welsh

Director of Technology  
Beacon City School District  
Office: 845-838-6900 x3395  
Cell: 845-219-0205

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nicholas Lizzo** <nicholas.lizzo@dcbooces.org>  
Date: Thu, Nov 30, 2023 at 1:16 PM  
Subject: Beacon Central School District Data Breach  
To: brian.kellner@sphero.com <brian.kellner@sphero.com>  
Cc: Welsh, Scott <welsh.s@beaconk12.org>

Hi Brian,

I'm the data privacy specialist here at DC BOCES. I support our component districts in maintaining their data privacy security. I got your email from Michelle Okal-Frink whom we also work with as well. We were wondering if we could get more information on the possible breach of data. Specifically we'd like to know the extent by which Beacon was affected. I've included Scott Welsh, Beacon's IT Director on this email as well. We're investigating whether or not student or teacher emails were affected due to the fact that if student's emails were affected we'd have to alert the appropriate parents/eligible students per NYS's Education Law 2-D. Would it be possible to get a protected summary of the affected Beacon emails?

Thanks,

Nick Lizzo

Data Privacy Specialist

Dutchess BOCES

5 Boces Road

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

W: 845.486.4800 Ext 2218

nicholas.lizzo@dcbooces.org

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Alvarado, Kristine <alvarado.k@beaconk12.org>

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## Fwd: Sphero Data Breach

1 message

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**Welsh, Scott** <welsh.s@beaconk12.org>

To: "Alvarado, Kristine" <alvarado.k@beaconk12.org>

Fri, Apr 12, 2024 at 12:33 PM

Sphero Data Breach

### Scott Welsh

Director of Technology  
Beacon City School District  
Office: 845-838-6900 x3395  
Cell: 845-219-0205

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Welsh, Scott** <welsh.s@beaconk12.org>

Date: Mon, Dec 4, 2023 at 10:18 AM

Subject: Sphero Data Breach

To: Brian Soltish <soltish.b@beaconk12.org>, Jeanne Dottavio <dottavio.j@beaconk12.org>, Gloria Rosati Peterson <rosatipeterson.g@beaconk12.org>, Cassandra Orser <orser.c@beaconk12.org>

Good Morning,

Last week we received word that there was a data breach involving accounts linked to Beacon, from the Sphero website used with the Maker Space project at RMS. Your emails were listed as compromised. As a precaution, please change your password as a precaution. If there is any more information given, I will keep you posted.

Thanks,

### Scott Welsh

Director of Technology  
Beacon City School District  
Office: 845-838-6900 x3395  
Cell: 845-219-0205