Why would hackers want your DNA?

DNA testing service MyHeritage [recently] revealed that [hackers had breached 92 million of its accounts](#). Though the hackers only accessed encrypted emails and passwords — so they never reached the actual genetic data — there's no question that this type of hack will happen more frequently as [consumer genetic testing becomes more and more popular](#). So why would hackers want DNA information specifically? And what are the implications of a big DNA breach?

One simple reason is that hackers might want to sell DNA data back for ransom, says [Giovanni Vigna](#), a professor of computer science at UC Santa Barbara and co-founder of cybersecurity company [Lastline](#). Hackers could threaten to revoke access or post the sensitive information online if not given money.

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[T]here are reasons genetic data specifically could be lucrative. "This data could be sold on the down-low or monetized to insurance companies," Vigna adds. "You can imagine the consequences: One day, I might apply for a long-term loan and get rejected because deep in the corporate system, there is data that I am very likely to get Alzheimer's and die before I would repay the loan."
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And ultimately, a breach of genetic data is much more serious than most credit breaches. Genetic information is immutable: Vigna points out that it's possible to change credit card numbers or even addresses, but genetic information cannot be changed.

Read full, original post: [Why a DNA data breach is much worse than a credit card leak](#)