National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Data Incident FAQ

How did the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Data Incident Impact Yale?
The cybersecurity incident involving the NSC impacted student information at colleges and universities across the US as described in more detail below. For Yale students, only directory information was exposed such as name, address, and enrollment at Yale. Sensitive information such as social security numbers, student ID number, or date of birth of Yale students were NOT compromised in this event.

What is the National Student Clearinghouse?
The NSC is an educational non-profit organization that collects student enrollment data on behalf of colleges and universities, including Yale, to perform enrollment-related services. The services include enrollment verification for the purposes of student loan deferrals, degree verification for employers, and to assist evaluations of student success.

Why does the NSC have my data?
Yale sends student data to the NSC to perform several student administrative functions such as enrollment verification for the purposes of student loan deferrals, degree verification for employers, and to assist evaluations of student success. For information on NSC's data practices and privacy policies, see https://www.studentclearinghouse.org/privacy-policy/

What happened with data at NSC?
The NSC is investigating a recent cybersecurity issue involving a vulnerability in one of their third-party software tools, MOVEit Transfer. NSC has been working with leading cybersecurity experts and law enforcement to assess the impact of the MOVEit vulnerability on the Clearinghouse and their systems. NSC has determined that an unauthorized party obtained certain files transferred through the Clearinghouse's MOVEit environment, including files containing data that they maintain on behalf Yale. NSC has no evidence to suggest that the unauthorized party specifically targeted the Clearinghouse, their customers, or other organizations that provide data to the Clearinghouse.

The Clearinghouse promptly took measures to protect customer data and their systems by applying the relevant security patches and diligently following guidance from the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). As a precautionary measure, NSC rebuilt the Clearinghouse's entire MOVEit environment, using new installations of the latest operating systems as well as installing a clean copy of the latest version of the MOVEit Transfer application.

What is MOVEit?
MOVEit is software used to transfer data files using secure automated systems. In May 2023, the maker of MOVEit software identified a vulnerability in the software which was exploited by a cybercriminal group. https://www.progress.com/security/moveit-transfer-and-moveit-cloud-vulnerability

What data was involved?
The NSC's role in student enrollment verification and transcript services requires that they have student academic records including courses taken and grades, as well as financial information such as your social security number for the purpose of confirming enrollment to financial institutions to defer student loan payments. NSC has determined that social security numbers, student IDs and dates of birth of Yale students were not impacted. In addition, Yale does not use NSC for transcript services and therefore does not provide course level or transcript information on Yale students to NSC.

How can I get more information?
The NSC has set up a website at: https://alert.studentclearinghouse.org/