



# The Handover

DIGITAL ESTATE NEWS THAT MATTERS TO YOUR FAMILY

ISSUE 01 · JULY 2026

THE LEAD · BREACH WATCH

## 14.2 million email logins exposed in one breach — and email is the key your executor needs most

Japanese telecommunications giant KDDI disclosed in late June that attackers exploited a third-party vulnerability in a shared email platform it operates for six internet providers. Up to 14.22 million email addresses and hashed passwords were exposed — one of the largest email-credential breaches on record.

Email breaches are different from every other kind. Your inbox isn't just correspondence; it's the recovery path for nearly everything you own online. Password resets, verification links, two-factor fallbacks — they all route through email. Compromise the inbox and every connected account inherits the exposure.

Now add the estate dimension, which almost nobody reports on: when someone dies, their executor's first practical move is usually the deceased's email, because it's the front door to account discovery and recovery. If that mailbox was quietly compromised — and most people never learn their credentials leaked — the executor is running password resets through infrastructure someone else may be watching.

### WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR FAMILY

Check your own exposure ([haveibeenpwned.com](https://haveibeenpwned.com) is free), turn on two-factor for your primary email today, and treat your inbox as estate infrastructure: it deserves the strongest protection of any account you hold, and it belongs at the very top of any digital estate inventory.

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**BREACH WATCH · HEALTH DATA****Medtronic notifies 3.8 million patients: names, identity numbers and health records taken**

Medical device maker Medtronic began notifying 3.8 million patients that personal and medical information — names, contact details, dates of birth, identity numbers and health data — was stolen in an April attack claimed by the ShinyHunters group, with notification letters landing in early July.

What makes health-data breaches uniquely serious is permanence. A stolen password gets reset; a stolen card gets cancelled. A date of birth, an identity number and a medical history can't be changed — the exposure is lifelong, and it outlives the person. Estates inherit it: an executor managing accounts tied to compromised identity data is working blind against criminals holding the same information.

**WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR FAMILY**

Breach exposure belongs in your estate plan alongside your accounts. A gold-standard inventory records not just what exists but which identities are known-compromised — so the people managing your affairs know what needs protecting, not just accessing.

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**BREACH WATCH · THE DATA YOU CAN'T CONTROL****Nissan HR systems breached through an Oracle zero-day — no phishing, no weak passwords, no user error**

Nissan Americas disclosed in late June that attackers exploited an unauthenticated zero-day vulnerability in Oracle PeopleSoft to breach HR systems, exposing employees' identity numbers, banking details and tax records across four countries. Nobody clicked anything. The flaw required no credentials and no user interaction at all.

The uncomfortable lesson: a meaningful share of your most sensitive data lives in systems you can't choose, audit or secure — your employer's HR platform, your providers' databases. When you die, your executor needs exactly that data: employment records, insurance, pension details. Whether it's still uncompromised by then was never in your hands.

**WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR FAMILY**

You can't secure other people's systems — you can only plan for the assumption of breach. Strong unique credentials where you do have control, and an estate plan that maps your exposure through employers and providers, not just your own logins.

## PLATFORM OBITUARIES

### Services that died this season — and took data with them

Digital assets live on rented land. A reminder from the past few months of what "the platform decides" looks like in practice:

#### Samsung Messages (US)

SWITCHED OFF 6 JULY 2026

Samsung discontinued its Messages app for US Galaxy users. Conversations were meant to auto-migrate to Google Messages; users report chat histories — including carrier-hosted RCS threads — lost in transition. Text archives hold final conversations with people we've lost; this is how they vanish, without a hack, by corporate decision.

#### 52 online games and counting

JANUARY - JULY 2026

Fifty-two titles have had servers permanently shut down this year, several — including major sports and MMO titles — removing purchased content ahead of closure. Game libraries and in-game holdings are real digital assets with real money behind them, and they evaporate on a publisher's timetable.

#### An end-of-life planning platform, ironically

DECOMMISSIONING SEPTEMBER 2026

A US end-of-life planning service used by nearly two million people is being switched off following an acquisition, with accounts inaccessible after the cutover. Even the platforms built for legacy planning are themselves platforms — export paths matter everywhere.

## THE LAW · A PARADOX IN TWO ACTS

### The law now says digital assets are property. Platforms keep deleting the property.

The UK's Property (Digital Assets etc) Act 2025 — in force since December — formally recognises digital assets as personal property for inheritance purposes, and a 2026 UK Court of Appeal decision held that in-game currency can be "property" capable of being stolen. Legal recognition is arriving. Yet the same months delivered the shutdowns above: property in law, deletable in practice.

**And Australia?** Still no equivalent legislation. Forty-seven US states give executors legal standing over digital accounts; here, platform terms of service continue to outrank a Grant of Probate. The NSW Law Reform Commission's review of digital asset access is ongoing, and the Commonwealth's Digital Assets Framework covers crypto exchanges — not your email, photos or social accounts. Until that changes, private planning remains an Australian family's only real protection.

#### WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR FAMILY

Don't wait for the law and don't trust the platform. Export irreplaceable data on a schedule, record where everything lives, and keep the inventory current — recognition of your rights is coming slowly; deletion clocks run daily.



## THE READINESS CORNER

## Three things to actually do this month

Each takes minutes, costs nothing, and directly answers something in this issue.

### 1 Turn on Google's Inactive Account Manager

myaccount.google.com → Data & privacy → "Plan for your digital legacy." Nominate up to 10 people to receive your data after your chosen inactivity window. Ten minutes, and your Gmail, Drive and Photos stop being a dead end.

### 2 Set an Apple Legacy Contact

Settings → [your name] → Sign-In & Security → Legacy Contact. Without one, your family's route to your iCloud photos runs through a court order. Save the access key it generates with your estate papers.

### 3 Check your super death benefit nomination

Super sits outside your will — the nomination decides who receives it, and lapsed non-binding nominations are a classic source of family disputes. Log in, check the date, make it binding if your fund offers it.

## WHY WE PUBLISH THIS

NYLK builds Digital Directives — professionally managed inventories of your digital life, with verified executor release when it's needed. The gold standard we work to is simple: everything found, access mapped, wishes recorded, kept current, released only on verification. This bulletin exists because the first step toward that standard is knowing what's actually happening out there — and most of it never makes the evening news.

## Get The Handover free, every month

Plus the full resource pack: inventory checklist, executor guide, readiness scorecard —  
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Sources this issue: KDDI breach — BleepingComputer, Security Affairs, The Cyber Express (June–July 2026) · Medtronic — SecurityWeek, BleepingComputer, HIPAA Journal (July 2026) · Nissan / Oracle PeopleSoft — BleepingComputer, SecurityWeek, Cybersecurity News (June–July 2026) · Samsung Messages — CNET, PhoneArena, Android Police (July 2026) · 2026 game shutdowns — GameRant (July 2026) · UK Property (Digital Assets etc) Act 2025 — bills.parliament.uk; Keystone Law commentary · RUFADAA adoption — Thomson Reuters Practical Law state chart; Trust & Will 2026 Estate Planning Report · NSW Law Reform Commission digital assets review — lawreform.justice.nsw.gov.au. The Handover is general information, not legal or financial advice. Platform policies change — verify before acting.

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