

Article Title	Attack Name/S.No.	Is the alleged attack a breach of Confidentiality?	Is the alleged attack a breach of Integrity?	Is the alleged attack a breach of Availability?	Is the alleged attack legitimate given what we know about the UIDAI infrastructure? (Yes, No, Unsure)	Reason	Comments
An IIT graduate has been arrested for illegally accessing the Aadhaar database: Report	An IIT graduate has been arrested for illegally accessing the Aadhaar database: Report	Yes	No	No	Yes	UIDAI took action against this attack, which suggests that it is legitimate. However due to lack of information in the article about how this attack was carried out, we cannot rate on the basis of our understanding of the Aadhaar system.	
UIDAI reveals 210 govt websites made Aadhaar details public, did not specify when breach took place	UIDAI reveals 210 govt websites made Aadhaar details public, did not specify when breach took place	Yes	No	No	Yes	We know that this is a legitimate attack since the UIDAI has confirmed this breach of data confidentiality through an RTI (Right to Information) request. It is important to note that the UIDAI itself did not leak this data. It was posted on the websites of over 200 central government, state government and educational institutes. It is still unclear as to how they had accessed the Aadhaar data.	
Three Gujarat websites including government portal made Aadhaar details public	Three Gujarat websites including government portal made Aadhaar details public	Yes	No	No	Yes	The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology confirmed the attack. Even though this is not an attack on UIDAI, this would not have happened had Aadhaar not existed.	
In Two Villages in UP And Rajasthan, Aadhaar Cards Have A Story To Tell: Almost Everyone's Born On The Same Day	In Two Villages in UP And Rajasthan, Aadhaar Cards Have A Story To Tell: Almost Everyone's Born On The Same Day	No	Yes	No	Yes	Human error in a large-scale and multistakeholder system is definitely possible. In this case, the enrolment officer did not fill in the details correctly for some people who had submitted their date of birth documents.	
This Uzbek National Was Arrested Last Year With An Aadhaar Card Believed To Be Forged. It's Still Valid On The UIDAI Website	This Uzbek National Was Arrested Last Year With An Aadhaar Card Believed To Be Forged. It's Still Valid On The UIDAI Website	No	Yes	No	Yes	The Aadhaar card is meant for citizens and residents. This can be considered as an attack if the documents given during enrolment are fake/forged. That information has not been provided in the article.	The Act further defines residency as, "An individual who has resided in India for a period or periods amounting in all to 182 days or more in the 12 months immediately preceding the date of application for enrolment."
Pak National with Aadhaar Card Arrested from Jaisalmer Air Base	Pak National with Aadhaar Card Arrested from Jaisalmer Air Base	No	Yes	No	Unsure	Same as above. In addition, we don't know if this Aadhaar card was valid on the UIDAI website. For all we know, this could be a photostopped copy of this Aadhaar.	Same as above
Fake documents, forged gazetted letters used to enrol for Aadhaar	Fake documents, forged gazetted letters used to enrol for Aadhaar	No	Yes	No	Yes	There is a possibility of human error or laziness that can seep in resulting in people with fake documents being enrolled in the Aadhaar system.	
SBI alleges Aadhaar data breach, UIDAI says database fully secure	SBI alleges Aadhaar data breach, UIDAI says database fully secure	No	No	No	Yes	Both UIDAI and SBI agreed to the fact that "multiple stolen IDs" that were attributed to one enrolment operator. This itself can allow for the creation of multiple fake Aadhaar enrolments.	
UIDAI Blacklists Centre That Leaked Aadhaar Details of M S Dhoni for 10 Years	Leak of MSD's Aadhaar Data	Yes	No	No	Yes	Human error with regards to the enrolment officer/agency	
Rs 500, 10 minutes, and you have access to billion Aadhaar details	Illegal access to the data	Yes	No	No	Yes	UIDAI sued The Tribune for exposing this attack and getting access to this leaked data. This suggests that it is a real attack on the database.	
WikiLeaks hints at CIA access to Aadhaar data, officials deny	CIA having all Aadhaar biometric information	Yes	No	No	No	If the biometric hardware has no way of communicating over the internet (which is the case), it's not likely that the Aadhaar software will send the information over to the CIA.	
Indiana Leaked Millions of Aadhaar Numbers, Claims French Researcher	Same as the title	Yes	No	No	Yes	Same as above	
Fake Aadhaar card network busted in Kanpur	Hackers bypassed the fingerprint biometric system by successfully copying legitimate fingerprints.	No	Yes	No	Yes	Tampering of the source code is possible with physical access to an enrolment client and an operator's fingerprints.	
Aadhaar Operator's Biometrics Stolen & Misused, UIDAI Documents Prove	Hackers got the biometric of an Aadhaar enrolment agent	No	Yes	No	Yes	Same as above. In addition, the accused are not selling a tampered version of the source code to others.	
Big data breach! Aadhaar software hack raises major security concerns	A software patch, which can be bought for as little as Rs. 2,500 - reportedly allows unauthorised persons, based anywhere in the world, to generate Aadhaar numbers.	No	Yes	No	Unsure	It is unlikely that the iris scanner can be fooled with a photograph of a registered operator. If at all this is possible, it would require a photograph of an operator in a very specific pose, which would be difficult to obtain.	
How a SIM Card Operator in Hyderabad Apparently Created His Own Aadhaar Database	Property papers which have all the Aadhaar relevant information can be acquired for extremely low rates by anyone and used to check the Aadhaar database.	Yes	No	No	Yes	He got the information from other sources but the Aadhaar infrastructure should be strong enough to not accept biometrics that are not live.	
Aadhaar data: French hacker exposes flaws in its Android app, asks people not to use it	Aadhaar data of a person can be seen if one has physical access to someone's device. There is a certain level of tech expertise required to access this information.	Yes	No	No	Yes	The video shows how this is possible.	
Cracked Aadhaar enrolment and updation software for sale on the black market: Report	Aadhaar data of enrolment agents like biometrics is bypassed along with their geolocation to mimic their behaviour in order to produce fake Aadhaar data.	No	Yes	No	Unsure	It is unlikely that the iris scanner can be fooled with a photograph of a registered operator. If at all this is possible, it would require a photograph of an operator in a very specific pose, which would be difficult to obtain.	
Aadhaar's Dirty Secret Is Out, Anyone Can Be Added as a Data Admin	Any admin can add someone else as an admin who has the right to see any information as stored in the Aadhaar database. This new admin then has the right to do the same.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Access to Aadhaar details after enrolment or updation requires access to the CIDR. Therefore, this alleged breach points to an insider attack. In their review, Agnew et al. emphasised the inadequate protection against insider attacks on CIDR data. Thus making this attack a possibility.	
Aadhaar card tampering racket busted in Surat	Someone got Aadhaar login details of an enrolment operator along with their finger print. They then sold it to two people who used those login details to update Aadhaar details and charged money for it.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Since the enrolment officer is the focal point of information entry/updation, it is possible for this alleged attack to take place if the login details (including fingerprint) of the officer is forged	
Aadhaar Card Issued to a Dog, Owner Arrested	A dog was issued an Aadhaar number by an enrolment agency supervisor.	No	Yes	No	No	This attack needs multiple breaches to be performed: faking fingerprints, failed de-duplication, human error (negligence). This seems to be like just an Aadhaar on which someone has photostopped a dog's face.	
Aadhaar biometric data breach triggers privacy concerns	Aadhaar biometric data breach triggers privacy concerns				No		Privacy
UIDAI suspends eKYC licence of Bharti Airtel, Airtel Payments Bank over violation of Aadhaar Act	Illegal opening of bank account				No		Privacy
Fingerprints, Aadhaar and Law Enforcement – A Deadly Cocktail Is in the Making	Police has partial Aadhaar access for biometric scans of criminals	Yes	No	No	Unsure	Access to the Aadhaar database, apart from the necessary UIDAI authorities must be gotten only for special cases through a judicial process. If this is met, then this should not be considered an attack. The Srikrishna draft mentions these cases but since it has not been passed yet, we cannot be sure whether to term this as a legitimate attack.	Privacy
Aadhaar Privacy Issues Extend Beyond the Security of Its Biometric Database	Cyber Cafes in particular being allowed to gather Aadhaar information and store it in their 'secure' database for an year is a clear breach of privacy!	Yes	No	No	No		Privacy
UIDAI CEO Gave The Supreme Court His Aadhaar Logs, Now Twitter Knows Everything About Him	The CEO (unintentionally) proves that Aadhaar is actively keeping track of any authentication done by any AUA, internal or otherwise.	No	No	No	Yes	This attack shows that, although "CIA" is not breached, questions can still be raised about the very concept of Aadhaar in providing the government a way to track the activities of the citizens of India.	Privacy
Scroll Investigation: How your Voter ID was linked to Aadhaar without your knowledge or consent	This is not an attack on Aadhaar. The Election Commission linked some voter ID cards to Aadhaar numbers but that does nothing to anyone.	No	No	No	No	Aadhaar numbers were retrieved by the Election Commission from people who were enrolling for Aadhaar.	Privacy
About 500 missing children traced through Aadhaar: UIDAI	This is not an attack on Aadhaar, but it does suggest that Aadhaar is tracking us	Yes	Yes	No	No		Privacy
UIDAI: Police suspicion that Aadhaar data stolen was unfounded	The government has information of all people in Telangana	Yes	No	No	No	The company had stored aadhaar details of multiple residents. Although we do not know whether this data has come from the UIDAI's CIDR or not, it is safe to say that access to these multiple aadhaar details should be considered as an attack.	Privacy
TOTAL		10	8	1	16		

Attack Name	Threat Actor	Cost (Time and Resources) - Low, Medium, High	Level of Safeguard by UIDAI Infra. against this attack	Feasibility (ease of repeating by the threat actor given cost and safeguard)	Comments	Mitigation Strategy	Bucket Kind/Attack Type		
An IT graduate has been arrested for illegally accessing the Aadhaar database: Report	Technical Expert	Medium	Low	Medium	The cost is medium because not everyone can perform the attack while it doesn't require an immense amount of resources. The Level of feasibility is Low because UIDAI didn't ensure that its partner had the data in a secure structure. Leading to many possible vulnerabilities in future systems.	Enforcing strict security standards for UIDAI partner institutions. If these organisations store Aadhaar data, it must be done so after encryption and with appropriate security measures.	Server Hacking		Server Hacking + Hacking UIDAI partne org. storage
UIDAI reveals 210 govt websites made Aadhaar details public, did not specify when breach took place	Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	Unsure	Unsure about the metrics since the appropriate information was not made public.	Unsure	Infrastructure Loophole		Infrastructure Loophole + Going through established UIDAI channels to access private information.
In Two Villages In UP And Rajasthan, Aadhaar Cards Have A Story To Tell: Almost Everyone's Born On The Same Day	Enrolment Agent	Low	Low	Medium	The level of safeguard is low since it is little scope to rule out attacks (or mistakes) by enrolment officers in the current Aadhaar Architecture.	Log data entered by the enrolling officers, which are under random external audit so as to ensure or minimise, the fear of human error. Have stricter measures for a registrar to be able to enroll citizens and accepting documents.	Infrastructure Loophole		Subpar Hardware = UIDAI approved hardware footed by external entities into approving false biometrics.
SBI alleges Aadhaar data breach: UIDAI says database fully secure	Technical Expert	Medium	Medium	Low	The cost is medium since the threat actor would need access to an enrolment officer's login and biometric as well as be a technical expert. Level of safeguard is medium because UIDAI can detect this due to multiple IDs being created.		Server Hacking, Infrastructure Loophole		
Indane leaked millions of Aadhaar numbers: French security researcher	Technical Expert	Medium	Low	Medium	Same as attack 1	Same as attack 1	Server Hacking		
UIDAI Blacklists Centre That Leaked Aadhaar Details of M S Dhoni for 10 Years	Enrolment Agent	Low	Medium	High	The level of safeguard is medium since the contract of the agency has been cancelled and further investigation is underway to look for further fines.	Higher level of fines to disincentivize such errors.	Infrastructure Loophole		
Rs 500, 10 minutes, and you have access to billion Aadhaar details	Technical Experts or individual with access to login credentials or a high ranking official gone rogue	High	Low	Low	This attack requires login information of personnel high up in the hierarchy of UIDAI. Moreover, there needs to be access to the account of those who can assign more accounts that can see others' information.	The authentication to go into the system as a root (which it seems these people had) should only be allowed after multiple changing real time authentications like OTP or iris scans.	Server Hack		
Fake Aadhaar card network busted in Kanpur	Technical Expert	Medium	Medium	Low	The cost is medium since the person needs access to the biometric information of an enrolment agent along with the technical expertise to be able to fool the GPS system.	Better hardware should be used. The fingerprint scanner should be of better quality and its scanner should be more often employed since it is harder to fool.	Infrastructure Loophole, Subpar Hardware		
Medium: The report suggests it costs around Rs.100 to perform the attack, however, it takes significant time to retrieve and make digital signatures out of physical properly documents	Experts in Biometric hacking	Medium	Low	Medium	The attack was detected by UIDAI and was also dealt with. What could've been better would be to detect who actually used this person's information.	Better biometric hardware and better security for Aadhaar operators so their accounts are secure.	Infrastructure Loophole, Subpar Hardware		
How a SIM Card Operator in Hyderabad Apparently Created His Own Aadhaar Database	Digitally Literate Citizen	Medium	Low	Medium	The cost is medium. The report suggests it costs around Rs.100 per Aadhaar number to perform the attack, however it takes some effort to make a digital copy of physical signatures. The attack is facilitated by Aadhaar but it is not an attack on Aadhaar. The fingerprint sensors need to be more sophisticated since basic moisture-sensing sensors have been circumvented in a similar way in the past as well (Apple). For a person who is not performing a targeted attack, the feasibility is medium since it is relatively easy to collect this information from physical documents. However, that requires significant time and effort.	The digital scanners should be of a higher quality and preference should be given to iris scanners since iris scans are not commonly found or easily replicable.	Subpar Hardware		
Aadhaar data: French hacker exposes flaws in its Android app, asks people not to use it	A hacker: a tech-savvy person who can replicate the video in real life	Medium	None	Low	The cost is medium since the person should have physical access to the device, their password, and the phone should have the app and Aadhaar data. The level of safeguard is none since we are unsure whether UIDAI has fixed this issue. The feasibility is low since getting physical access to the phone and knowing their password is not very probable. In addition, if someone has this information, they have much more of a person's information available to them than just Aadhaar. This includes: their phone number, their emails, their location history (which includes their house location).	Make better apps. The feel of the app itself shows the quality of developers that have developed it.	Server Hack		
Fake documents, forged gazetted letters used to enroll for Aadhaar	People having personal contacts with Gazetted Officers.	Low	None	High	The cost is low since if the gazetted officer gives in, it is very easy to be inducted into the CIDR even if the person is illegitimate. The level of safeguard is none because they assume that a Gazetted Officer's signature on a document is legitimate. It is very feasible since this attack is based on connections with a Gazetted Officer, which is quite probable. It is important to note that this is not UIDAI's mistake but that Gazetted officer's mistake.	This document mentions that the verifier does not need to verify the document if a notary or gazetted officer has attested it. This rule may need to be changed to regain control over legitimacy of documents. https://www.uidai.gov.in/images/handbook_verifier_6122013.pdf	Infrastructure Loophole		
This Uzbek National Was Arrested Last Year With An Aadhaar Card Believed To Be Forged: It's Still Valid On The UIDAI Website	Foreign nationals wanting proof of Indian residency	Low	Low	Medium	This is a legitimate attack only if fake documents proving residency were provided during enrolment. The cost, level of safeguard and feasibility is according to this assumption.	Ensure multiple document verification checks during enrolment. Documents of residency cannot be taken at face value.	Infrastructure Loophole		
Aadhaar card tampering racket busted in Surat	Anyone with access to an enrolment officer	Medium	High	Medium	The cost is medium since it requires the operators login details and a rubber stamp impression of their biometric. The level of safeguard is high since the location of each enrolment officer is tracked for each enrolment that is made. If two enrolments are made simultaneously from two different places, then it will be flagged.	Regular changing of login details of enrolment operators and harsh punishments if they are found to give out their data. Better quality biometric hardware that cannot be fooled by rubber stamps, at least for the enrolment operators.	Infrastructure Loophole, Subpar Hardware		
Three Gujarat websites including government portal made Aadhaar details public	Anyone with access to these websites	Low	Low	High	This is an issue caused due to the lack of security of UIDAI's partner organisation (the Gujarat websites in this case). Since Aadhaar information was made public, anyone with access to the internet and to these sites could potentially view and store them for malicious purposes.	The UIDAI should ensure that its agencies are keeping Aadhaar details more secure. Essentially, they should not be stored in plain text and be only available to concerned parties. A citizen 'X' should not get access to the information of citizen 'Y'.	Infrastructure Loophole		
UIDAI: Police suspicion that Aadhaar data stolen was unfounded	Third Party Organisation	Low	Medium	Medium	The safeguard is medium since UIDAI has the ability to know when and where its partner organisations are using this data. Feasibility is low since these partner organisations risk a lawsuit with UIDAI if caught.	There should be stricter rules on the use of this data. Just having the data shouldn't mean it can be used for purposes other than the ones agreed with UIDAI. Significant punitive measures should discourage the misuse of this data.	Infrastructure Loophole		
Aadhaar's Dirty Secret Is Out, Anyone Can Be Added as a Data Admin	Insider Attack (Administrator)	Low	Low	Low	We do not know who exactly is an admin of this system and what is the official procedure in the background to make someone else an admin.	The process of making an admin could be decentralised and be based on majority votes to ensure one agent cannot compromise it.	Infrastructure Loophole		

Privacy Breach Name	Threat Actor	Reason	Breach Type	Mitigation Strategies
Aadhaar biometric data breach triggers privacy concerns	Authentication Agent/UIDAI's Partner organisation	The identity of a resident was derived using an illegal copy of the Aadhaar database that was stored by the partner organisation. Since the identity of the resident was compromised and misused (through multiple illegal authentication requests), we consider this a privacy breach.	Illegal Storage	For this not to be a privacy breach, the partner organisation must not be able to hold or copy the data given during authentication unless UIDAI provides them with the same (with resident consent). Therefore, data captured by the biometric and input devices should be immediately encrypted such that partner organisations cannot identify any specific individual in the database. Alternatively, an One-Time-Password (OTP) should be sent to the registered number for each authentication request.
UIDAI suspends eKYC licence of Bharti Airtel, Airtel Payments Bank over violation of Aadhaar Act	Authentication Agent/UIDAI's Partner organisation	The partner organisation had identified individuals and created new bank accounts for the same without informed and explicit consent. Similar to above.	Illegal Storage	Same as above.
Fingerprints, Aadhaar and Law Enforcement – A Deadly Cocktail Is in the Making	Centre/State Government Agencies	The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was seeking permission for limited access to biometrics in the Aadhaar database to investigate crime and trace unidentified bodies. Although these are genuine use cases, there is a threat of state surveillance that can be used to identify and trace any resident whose information is in the system.	Database Access	For aggregated analysis, differential privacy algorithms should be used. In cases wherein it is imperative to identify the person there should be a legal procedure even if the requesting entity is a high ranking official. Structural measures should be maintained to prevent the tracing of these individuals even after the police has used the information for the purpose requested. This is a case of surveillance and cannot/shouldn't come under the purview of UIDAI themselves.
UIDAI CEO Gave The Supreme Court His Aadhaar Logs. Now Twitter Knows Everything About Him	Internal Agent	UIDAI requires AUAs to store authentication logs for over two years which can be extended to five years if needed. A high ranking official in the UIDAI can get access to this information, which they did.	Log Access	To get access to Authentication data, there should be a legal procedure even if the requesting entity is a high ranking official. This is a case of surveillance and cannot/shouldn't come under the purview of UIDAI themselves.
The National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Programme aimed to use Aadhaar linking to remove duplicate names from voter lists. The linking of these two IDs could lead to linkage attacks that threaten individual privacy.	Centre/State Government Agencies	The partner organisation had identified individuals and linked their voter and Aadhaar IDs for the same without informed and explicit consent. Similar to breach 4.	Database Access	Same as Breach 4
Three Gujarat websites including government portal made Aadhaar details public	UIDAI Partner organisation	The organisation did not encrypt the data while storing, which could lead to the identification of individuals in the publicly accessible database.	Database Access	Higher penalty for storing Aadhaar information in plaintext so as to disincentivize these actions. Random audits should be done by UIDAI and external agencies.
How a SIM Card Operator in Hyderabad Apparently Created His Own Aadhaar Database	Digitally Literate Citizen	By creating his own database using information from physical records, he was able to identify individuals and create SIM cards in their name through Aadhaar verification.	Physical Records	Aadhaar numbers shouldn't be mentioned on physical records.
UIDAI Blacklists Centre That Leaked Aadhaar Details of M S Dhoni for 10 Years	Enrollment Agency	One instance of the database was made public with the identity of the individual.	Physical Records	This can be attributed to human error. Awareness on privacy and digital identity can help mitigate this.
About 500 missing children traced through Aadhaar: UIDAI	Centre/State Government Agencies	This is definitely a positive use case for Aadhaar, but it poses the risk of state surveillance.	Database Access	This will always be a privacy breach since the purpose is to identify the individual.
UIDAI: Police suspicion that Aadhaar data stolen was unfounded	Third Party Organisation	The organisation had illegally stored Aadhaar information that can be used to identify an individual in the database.	Illegal Storage	The agency got this information through some UIDAI partner organization. The organization should not be allowed to divulge any Aadhaar information without proper authentication.