







What's your privacy worth?

Here is a look at who got what in six large privacy-breach class actions. Some settlements are still awaiting final court approval.

Company	The case	For the plaintiffs lawyers	For the plaintiffs
	<p>A 2008 lawsuit targeted Facebook's Beacon program, which posted users' online purchases (everything from diamond rings to movie rentals) on the user's wall and their friends' newsfeeds. Facebook settled the lawsuit by September 2009, agreeing to shut down the service and pay \$9.5 million. After the lawyers and 19 plaintiffs were paid, the balance was used to establish a nonprofit foundation promoting online privacy and security.</p> <p>Plaintiff lawyers: 6 firms, including KamberLaw; the Law Office of Joseph H. Malley; Parisi & Havens</p>	\$2.36 mln	One lead plaintiff received \$10,000 ; two plaintiffs received \$5,000 each; the other 16 class representatives got \$1,000 a piece.
	<p>Soon after Google launched its Buzz social networking service in February 2010, Gmail users sued the Internet giant on behalf of 30 million people for exposing their personal information and Gmail contacts on the public Buzz network. Google settled the case agreeing to pay \$8.5 million into a common fund to benefit 14 privacy organizations.</p> <p>Plaintiff lawyers: 14 firms, including Mason LLP; Ram & Olson; William Rubenstein; Peter Wasyluk; Andrew Kierstead; Thomas Genshaft; Braun Law Group; Amamgbo & Associates; the Terrell Law Group; Shub Law; Seeger Weiss; Lawrence E. Feldman & Associates; Freed & Weiss; Kane & Silverman</p>	\$2.15 mln	Seven named plaintiffs got \$2,500 a piece. The rest of the class got nothing
	<p>Customers sued the parent company of Marshall's and TJ Maxx after it announced in 2007 that hackers had broken into its system and stolen data on over 45 million credit and debit cards. TJX settled later that year.</p> <p>Plaintiff lawyers: 25 firms, including Barnow & Associates; Wolf Popper; Berger & Montague</p>	\$6.5 mln	\$30 checks to victims, capped at \$7 million total; reimbursements for hard losses capped at \$1 million credit monitoring; identity-theft insurance; store vouchers; a one-day sale
	<p>In 2008, a former Countrywide employee was accused of stealing the personal and financial information of millions of customers and selling it to third parties. Dozens of lawsuits accused the bank of failing to guard customer data including names, social security numbers and bank accounts. Countrywide settled the consolidated litigation in 2009.</p> <p>Plaintiff lawyers: Over 50 firms, including Barnow & Associates; Finkelstein Thompson</p>	\$3.6 mln	\$500 for each lead plaintiff; \$250 for each named plaintiff; credit monitoring; identity-theft insurance; reimbursements up to \$6.5 million
	<p>Customers sued TD Ameritrade in 2007, claiming hackers broke into a company database and stole millions of customers' email addresses to send them spam. A judge rejected the parties' first settlement proposal as unfair. It had provided attorney's fees of \$1.87 million and no money to the class members. Under the latest proposed settlement, TD Ameritrade will pay the class members, the plaintiffs' lawyers and cover the victims' costs from the alleged identity theft.</p> <p>Plaintiff lawyers: 6 firms, including Kreindler & Kreindler; the Law Offices of Howard Strong; KamberLaw; Parisi & Havens</p>	up to \$500,000	Up to \$6.5 million (minus the plaintiffs' lawyer fees) to reimburse victims' claimed costs
	<p>Internet users sued three web advertising companies for allegedly tracking their online activity with "Flash cookies," a type of data-gathering file stored by Adobe's Flash program that's difficult for users to detect, block or delete. The companies settled their cases by December 2010, agreeing to a total settlement fund of \$3.225 million. After the lawyers and lead plaintiffs are paid, remaining funds will go to nonprofit groups chosen by the plaintiffs and their lawyers.</p> <p>Plaintiff lawyers: 5 firms, including KamberLaw; the Law Office of Joseph H. Malley; Parisi & Havens</p>	\$806,250	10 named plaintiffs will get \$1,500 each

(Reporting by Terry Baynes)