

## ADVISORY: Sensitive Messages Exposed due to Google Groups Misconfiguration

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### Issue Summary

The [RedLock CSI](#) team discovered hundreds of Google Groups that have publicly exposed messages containing sensitive information.

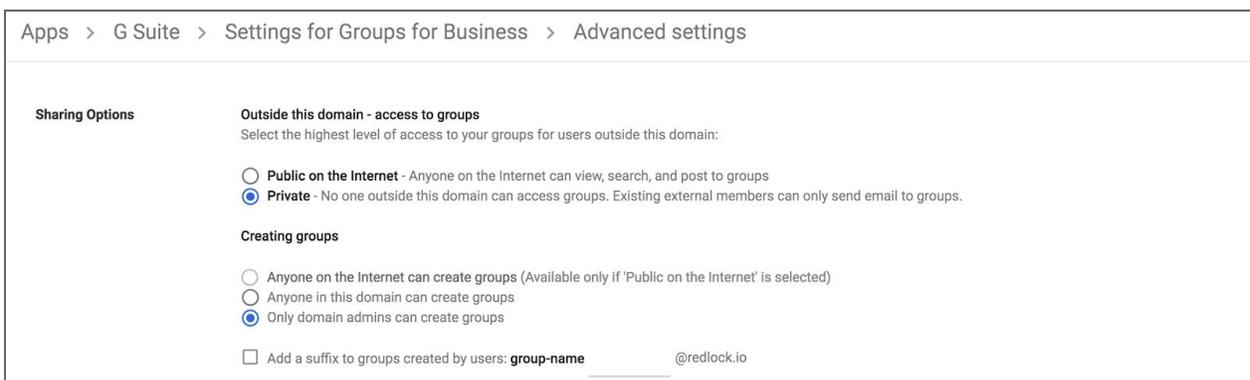
### The Impact

The Google Groups misconfiguration has led to the exposure of sensitive data such as personally identifiable information (PII) at hundreds of organizations.

### Background

Google Groups, a service that is a part of G Suite, allows organizations to create and participate in online forums and email-based groups. When configuring a Google Group, changing the sharing option for “Outside this domain - access to groups” enables you to make the messages public or private.

The RedLock Cloud Security Intelligence (CSI) team discovered that many organizations have accidentally set this field to “Public on the internet”, exposing messages containing sensitive information such as PII (name, email, home address, etc).



**Figure 1: Set Sharing Option for Google Group to “Private”**

## **Recommendation**

Per [Google Groups documentation](#), set the sharing setting for “Outside this domain - access to groups” to “private”.

## **About RedLock**

RedLock enables organizations to accelerate digital business by managing security and compliance risks within their public cloud infrastructure. It provides the most comprehensive view of cloud computing environments, even across multiple public cloud service providers. The RedLock Cloud 360™ platform supports cloud forensics, policy monitoring, anomaly detection, contextual alerting, and compliance reporting, all to deliver unparalleled true cloud infrastructure security without impeding DevOps.

The RedLock Cloud Security Intelligence (CSI) team consists of elite security analysts, data scientists, and data engineers with deep enterprise security expertise. The team’s mission is to enable organizations to confidently adopt public cloud infrastructure by researching cloud threats, advising organizations on cloud security best practices, and frequently publishing out-of-the-box policies in the RedLock Cloud 360 platform.

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