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Twitter Hacked, Defaced By "Iranian Cyber Army"

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 2009

4 Comments



We've received multiple reports around the world that Twitter.com has been hacked and defaced with the message below. The site was offline for a while.

The message read:

Iranian Cyber Army

THIS SITE HAS BEEN HACKED BY IRANIAN CYBER ARMY

IRANIAN CYBER ARMY @GLOBAL.COM

J.I.R.A. They're Trying Controlling And Managing Internet By Their Access. But They Don't. The Control And Manage Internet By Our Power. So Don't Try To Disruption Iranian Peoples To

HOW HIGH COUNTRY IN EMBARGO LIST? IRAN? USA? THE PUSH THEM IN EMBARGO LIST?!

Take Care

Update 1: We have just found out that the same defacement is appearing at at least one other site - [tweeter.com](#). We are not sure to see whether this is the same defacement but it is not impossible the same defacement that Twitter was only a few minutes ago.

Twitter does not have the best record on security issues. We have previously covered a number of incidents, and a few months ago their own servers were hacked to reveal detailed internal network information. We also previously wrote about their domain, [twitter.com](#), having a DNS leak on one account, and the well-known Twitter outage incident. It was hoped that the Twitter security team would be able to deal with a number of other high-level engineers and security experts that Twitter had shown out of the phase of being vulnerable to security incidents on such a large scale.

We do not know a lot about the group claiming responsibility for the attack as we haven't heard their name before and they do not show up in any defacement reports or security sites. Some Iranian groups were active during the election campaign in that country. We have emailed the group (they were kind enough to leave an address on the defacement) for a comment (also added them on Twitter - worth a shot).

Update 2: Twitter.com is down, status twitter.com is down. Some users are getting through at the moment because parts of the API are up. Search also seems to be working. The Frontend is up - Twitter are coming in from Frankfurt (all those tweets about a Twitter outage are from third-party sites).

Update 3: It is suggested that if you use the same password on your Twitter account with other accounts, now would be a good time to change your password on those other accounts.

Update 4: There is a notice, between Iran and Twitter. It was well noted and covered in the media that Twitter has been used as a tool during the Iranian election protests. The notice seems to be a warning to ensure that Twitter was available by the protesters. It is a warning and a round the country. This attack may be an act of retaliation from groups who are not happy with the role that Twitter played during the protests.

Update 5: There is speculation at the moment that this may be a DNS redirect, which means that the Twitter.com domain has been redirected to the defacement page. This doesn't explain why some subdomains are down while others are currently still alive (such as [search](#)).

Update 6: Twitter.com is back. The company updates a status saying "Twitter's DNS records were temporarily compromised but have now been fixed. We are looking into the underlying cause and will update with more information soon."

Update 7: Twitter's Platform lead engineer Alex Payne has a full blog post on the incident.



Update 8: Google has shown the below briefly when doing a search for Twitter (thanks Stuart). The information is in fact random noise.

HAVE A TIP? TELL US
GUEST COLUMN? TELL US

DELTA

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