Osg3 20120801 CYBER

TOF

Al Qaeda is just about out of business. The biggest problem with aircraft security lately seems to be some idiot trying to sew turkey sandwiches together. Use a toothpick, for cryin’ out loud!

But according to the FBI, we’re not out of the woods – because terrorist are always looking for the back door – and it may turn out to be the Internet. More after this from Charlie:

(((SPOT)))

Shawn Henry spent 24 years as the FBI’s top cyber cop. And he tells CBS’s Bob Orr that computer systems in this country are under continuous attack:

"(Henry:) There are estimates that there are attempted breaches in the millions of times per day. They'll just continuously knock until they find an edge to get in. (Orr:) Do they get in? (Henry:) They get in regularly." (:12)

Some of the attackers are lone wolves, but others are working for governments, including China and Russia. And being that we are arguably the most compute- dependent nation on earth, we’re especially vulnerable. Henry says many of the hacked companies have no idea:

"When I was with the FBI, our agents routinely went out and knocked on the doors of major companies and told them that their networks had been breached. And the reason we knew their networks had been breached was because we found their data outside their network, in the course of another investigation." (:18)

In response to these warnings, Senator Joe Lieberman is proposing a bill which would require US companies to report all cyber attacks, and set up security standards for critical industries:

(LIEBERMAN) Somebody can attack us through cyberspace and really do as much or more damage than the terrorists did on 9/11 - by knocking out the power grid for weeks, by incapacitating all of our banks." (:21)



And Shawn Henry supports the idea:

"I think our time is running short. And I think it's important that people take this seriously today. We can't wait for the physical implication." (:07)

But the bill has already run into opposition from businesses who see it as just another government nuisance, and may be next year before something’s passed. In the meantime, back up your data.

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