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September 12, 2008 11:14 AM PDT

Hackers break into Large Hadron Collider computer

Posted by Elinor Mills

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Hackers broke into a computer system at CERN's Large Hadron Collider, targeting a system that was "one step away" from a control computer, but otherwise appear to have done no major damage, according to a report on Friday in the British newspaper *The Telegraph*.

The system that was breached monitors the Compact Muon Solenoid Experiment, which will be analyzing data during subatomic particle collisions in the particle accelerator located along the French-Swiss border. Experiments, which began on Wednesday, are designed to help scientists explore particle physics theories.

During the attack on Tuesday and Wednesday, hackers left behind half a dozen files, damaged one CERN file, and displayed a Web page with the headline "GST: Greek Security Team," signing off: "We are 2600--don't mess with us," (sic) CERN scientists told the newspaper.

As a result of the attack, the Web site--cmsmon.cern.ch--was not accessible on Friday.

Fears that the experiments could prompt natural disasters or black holes that would swallow Earth have led to threatening phone calls and e-mails, CERN said.

(Via Graham Cluley's blog at Sophos.)

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by n3td3v September 12, 2008 11:45 AM PDT
The end is nigh!

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by David Gerard September 12, 2008 12:17 PM PDT
Maybe they misheard the word "hadron" and were looking for pr0n. <http://tinyurl.com/6nhwlu>

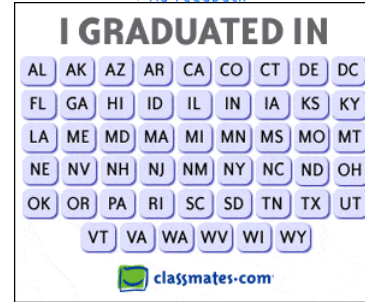
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by xhable September 12, 2008 12:20 PM PDT
the control computer is connected to the internet?... anybody out there think that sounds a little weird other than me?

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by VirtualDavid September 12, 2008 12:43 PM PDT
If anyone finds any semi-transparent body parts (specifically my left leg) floating around, would you mind dropping me an email? Tnx

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