THE HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY'S MORNING BRIEFING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2011 5:00 AM EDT

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DHS: Anonymous Could Target Critical Infrastructure. A bulletin leaked from the Department of Homeland Security warns that the hacker group Anonymous has threatened to target critical infrastructure systems, the [Washington Times](https://www.washingtontimes.com) (10/18, Waterman, 77K) reports. "While Anonymous recently expressed intent to target [industrial control software], they have not demonstrated a capability to inflict damage to these systems," says the bulletin, which is unclassified but labeled "For Official Use Only." According to the Times, the bulletin warns that Anonymous has "posted computer code and other material" expressing interest in industrial control software (ICS), and has shown "some ability to get access to ICS systems." DHS also

warns that while the group has not yet launched an attack against critical infrastructure, it "could be able to develop capabilities to gain access and trespass on [ICS] networks very quickly."

Wired (10/18, Zetter, 801K) reports in its "Threat Level" blog, "Anonymous efforts to attack such systems could be thwarted by the lack of centralized leadership in the loosely collected group, the bulletin says, as well as a lack of 'specific expertise' about how the systems work and how to attack them. However, the report notes, the latter could easily be overcome through study of publicly available information." Wired notes the bulletin was posted to the Public Intelligence website and comes from DHS's National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center. The Register (UK) (10/18, Goodin) and the Inquirer (UK) (10/18, Constantin) also report on the leaked bulletin.