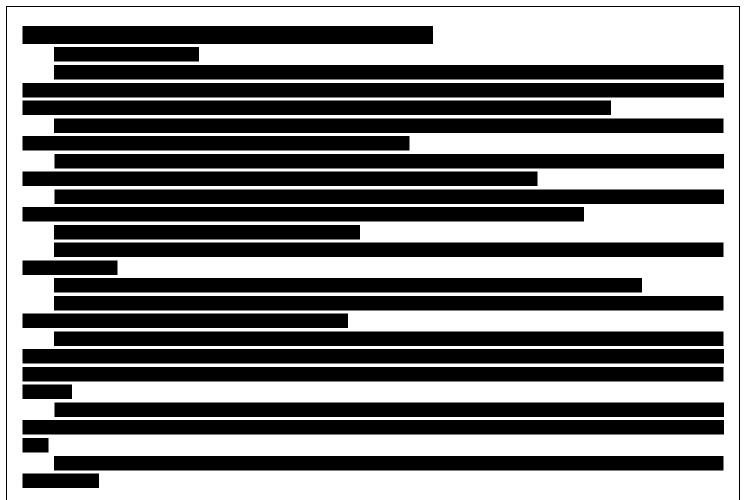# The Homeland Security Secretary's Morning Clips

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2011 5:00 AM EDT

U.S. Senate Computer Networks Breached (BLOOM)

By Michael Riley

[Bloomberg News](), June 13, 2011

June 13 (Bloomberg) -- William Beer, director of information security services at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, talks about the potential financial impact of cyber attacks on companies and infrastructure. He speaks with Andrea Catherwood on Bloomberg Television's "Last Word." (Source: Bloomberg)

A group of U.S. and European hackers said today it had accessed a U.S. Senate computer server and backed up the boast by posting computer files obtained in the attack on the Internet.

LulzSec, a hacker activist group made up of former members of the hacker organization Anonymous, said it had also broken into the networks of Bethesda Softworks and released sign-ons and passwords of users of a pornography website.

The actions follow more than two weeks worth of cyber attacks by the group, which also include hacking the computer networks of PBS, the television network Fox, and the Atlanta chapter of a U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation affiliate called InfraGuard.

"We don't like the U.S. government very much," the hackers said in a release that accompanied technical data from senate.gov, the U.S. Senate website, which cyber security experts said confirmed they had hacked the server.

Martina Bradford, deputy sergeant-at-arms of the U.S. Senate, said the body's IT security staff became aware of access to the server over the weekend. "The intruder did not gain access into the Senate computer network and was only able to read and determine the directory structure of the file placed on senate.gov," Bradford said.

The LulzSec hackers, who Barrett Brown, an informal spokesman for Anonymous, said are based mostly in the U.S. and Europe, have publicized their feats on Twitter as well as the group's website, lulzsecurity.com, even though the actions are possible violations of federal anti-hacking statutes.

The Senate data, known as a configuration file, could be used by other hackers to exploit vulnerabilities in the Senate network and obtain confidential information from U.S. lawmakers, said E.J. Hilbert, president of online intelligence and a former cyber security investigator for the FBI.

Hilbert said by posting the data, the group also demonstrated weaknesses in the Senate's network security.

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"This should not be this easy to obtain," Hilbert said. "It's basically a great reconnaissance tool for how to hack into the rest of the network."

The group also took credit for a cyber attack on Bethesda Software, a game developer, which confirmed on its blog an "unlawful intrusion of our websites."

LulzSec also released login passwords for around 26,000 users of X-rated pornography website Pron.com.