

THE HOMELAND SECURITY ***NEWS BRIEFING***

PREPARED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BY BULLETIN NEWS WWW.BULLETINNEWS.COM/DHS

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2011 7:15 AM EDT

TODAY'S EDITION

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Sony Claims PSN Breach Occurred During "Anonymous" DDoS Attack..... 9

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NATIONAL PROTECTION AND PROGRAMS

Sony Claims PSN Breach Occurred During “Anonymous” DDoS Attack. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/5, Li) reports, “The Justice Department has opened an investigation into the security breach at Sony Corp., in which two separate attacks over the last month shut down Sony’s PlayStation network and an online-gaming unit. The federal probe comes as Sony said Wednesday that its network might have been breached while it was defending itself from denial-of-service attacks by Anonymous, a loosely connected group of Internet activists who have successfully brought down the websites of other big corporations and was retaliating against Sony for bringing a civil suit against a hacker in federal court in San Francisco. ... Federal prosecutors in San Diego are working with FBI agents to look into the alleged hacking crimes.”

On its “Technology” blog, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/5, Li) also reports that “in a letter to the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s panel on commerce, manufacturing and trade, Sony said that it discovered a file planted on one of its servers named ‘Anonymous’ with the words ‘We are Legion,’ the tagline for the group that has brought down the websites of big corporations such as Visa, the letter said. Sony’s network may have been breached while it was defending itself against a denial-of-service attack from

Anonymous, Sony said.” [BBC News](#) (5/5) reports that “Anonymous” denies “being involved in the data theft.”

The [AP](#) (5/5), [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/5, Sherr, Schatz, Subscription Publication) and [Reuters](#) (5/5) also reports on the Sony’s allegations.

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/5, Engleman, Riddell) reports that Sony “defended its decision to wait six days to warn customers about an attack on its online entertainment networks last month that exposed their personal information. The company, which has been criticized by US lawmakers for not informing users more quickly, said today it waited because it did not want to ‘cause confusion’ by ‘announcing partial or tentative information,’ according to a letter sent to US lawmakers. ... Sony declined to appear today at a US House subcommittee hearing on data theft and sent the letter in response to questions from committee Chairwoman Mary Bono Mack, a California Republican, and G.K. Butterfield, a North Carolina Democrat who is the panel’s ranking minority member. Lawmakers have been frustrated at the time it took Sony to warn its customers.”

[NBC News](#) (5/5) also reports on the Sony’s response to claims of undue delay.

Holder Confirms DOJ Probe Into PSN Breach.

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/5, Freifeld, Riley) reports that Sony “was subpoenaed by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman over data breaches of its PlayStation Network and Sony Online unit, and representations made to customers, a person familiar with the probe said.” According to FBI San Diego Special Agent Darrell Foxworth, the FBI “is investigating the matter.”

[Reuters](#) (5/5, Vicini, Pelofsky) also reports on Holder’s testimony regarding the PSN breach.

The [AP](#) (5/5), [Financial Times](#) (5/5, Menn, Subscription Publication), and [Washington Post](#) (5/5, Tsukayama) report generally on the hearing.

Agencies Unlikely To Hire More IT Staff, CIOs Say.

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/5, Francis) reports, “Flat budgets will mean most federal chief information officers will maintain the number of contracting jobs in their agencies, according to a survey released today.” Government procurement officials working with IT contracts “said they don’t expect their technology budgets to increase for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2011, and most said they didn’t plan to hire staff or additional contractors for a few years, according to a survey conducted by TechAmerica, a technology industry association based in Washington.”

The [Washington Technology](#) (5/5, Lipowicz), meanwhile, reports “federal CIOs foresee a small net gain in the number of IT contractors for cybersecurity and enterprise architecture, and little or no increase in contractors for program management and transactions, in the coming

months through September 2012, according to” the TechAmerica survey.

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