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### Core Internet technology found vulnerable

**News** | Brandon Hill on Apr 21st, 2004 8:18 AM from Anandtech Forums

It appears that there is a ["leak" in the TCP](#) which could affect all networked computers:

The flaw affecting the [Internet's](#) "transmission control protocol," or TCP, was discovered late last year by [computer](#) researcher in Milwaukee. Paul Watson said he identified a method to reliably trick persons and routers into shutting down electronic conversations by resetting the machines remotely.

Experts previously said such attacks could take between four years and 142 years to succeed because they require guessing a rotating number from roughly 4 billion possible combinations. Watson said he can do this with as few as four attempts, which can be accomplished within seconds.

Routers continually exchange important updates about the most efficient traffic routes between large networks. Continued successful attacks against routers can cause them to go into a standby mode, known as "dampening," that can persist for hours.

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