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Major Internet Attack Could Be Near

by KYW's Bob Bicknell

The federal government and Internet security experts are warning about a serious computer flaw that could shut down almost all Internet traffic.



There is concern an attack could come as soon as Thursday.

For months, Internet security experts have been working in secret, trying to fix a flaw in a core Internet technology.

The flaw affects the Internet's transmission control protocol, or "TCP."

A hacker armed with the right information could disrupt the devices that control Internet traffic, effectively taking large portions of the global network offline.

The governments of the United States and Great Britain issued alerts Tuesday, warning an attack could disrupt Internet service around the world.

The flaw was discovered by Wisconsin researcher Paul Watson last year.

Watson is expected to present his findings to an Internet security conference on Thursday.

He's predicting hackers would understand how to begin launching attacks within minutes of his speech.

Right now, there's nothing individual Internet users can do about it.



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- [Dozens Dead in Iraqi Bombings](#)
- [Arrest Near in N. Phila. Murder of Insurance Salesman](#)

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- [Democrats Blast Bush Administration's Overtime Overhaul](#)
- [State Police Target Speeders on A.C. Expressway](#)
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- [Search For Missing Gasoline Truck Continues](#)
- [Tom Brokaw's Successor Has A Philadelphia History](#)
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- [The Original KFC Is No More](#)
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- [Pa. Lawmaker Proposes Automatic Phone Assistance Enrollment](#)
- [Seminar Focuses On Healing Pain Of Crime Victims](#)
- [Rally Planned To Save "Hack" TV Show](#)
- [Sheryl Crow Plans Promotional Mile-High Concert](#)
- [Sports: Jim O'Brien is 76ers' New Head Coach](#)
- [Senators Blast Handling of Iraq War](#)
- [Atlantic City Expwy Prepares High-Speed EZ Pass](#)
- [City Parking \\$\\$ Arrive at Phila. Schools](#)
- [Philadelphia Has First Heat-Related Death of 2004](#)
- [Montco Charity Embezzler Sentenced to Prison Term](#)
- [Art Museum Head Reacts to Mayor's Funding Cutoff](#)
- [Philadelphia Honors St. Joe's Hawks](#)
- [5th Anniversary Of Columbine Shooting Spree](#)
- [In a Montco Courtroom, a Tale of Sex, Jealousy and Murder](#)
- [US Gov't Targets Human Trafficking Crimes](#)
- [Supreme Court Considers Case of Terror War Detainees](#)
- [Phila. Orchestra Has Many Summer Concert Co-Stars](#)

- [Brits Foil Soccer Stadium Terror Attack](#)
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