



ERT THREAT ALERT

Recent Terror Attacks in France Trigger Cyber Attacks

January 2015



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
ANONYMOUS	3
ANONGHOST	4
SUMMARY.....	5

Introduction

On January 7, 2015 France endured a three day terror attack. In the aftermath, two separate parties launched a series of cyber-attacks. First, Anonymous declared war on Islamic extremists and promised to seek revenge for the attack on French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo. Second, the Islamic hacker's team AnonGhost declared cyber war on France, citing their unhappiness with the French population and its reaction to these attacks. Read this alert to understand the threats and plans of each organization.

Anonymous

Hactivist group Anonymous vowed to attack terrorist websites and social media accounts in revenge for the killing of Charlie Hebdo journalists. In a recent video posted on YouTube, Anonymous announced it would track down any website and social media network linked to terrorists in an operation called **#OpCharlieHebdo**. "We intend to take revenge in their name, we are going to survey your activities on the net, and we are going to shut down your accounts on all social networks."

Anonymous hacked websites belonging to government departments, companies and other organizations, as well as a jihadist website.

Furthermore, a Twitter account known as @OpCharlieHebdo, created on the first day of the attack, asked followers to report Twitter accounts of suspected terrorists. A crowd sourced list shared by the group has collected more than 100 accounts to target via Twitter. The operation is expected to start on or about January 15.

The hackers associated with the international network took responsibility for bringing down Ansar-Alhaqq.net, a religious website in French and Arabic that waves an Islamic flag, with a distributed denial of-service (DDoS) attack.



AnonGhost

Islamic hackers called AnonGhost have launched a digital jihad against France and Anonymous. Over the last few days, AnonGhost has brought down a number of French websites, replacing the pages with a manifesto and a series of disturbing images.

Several websites in a number of towns in the outskirts of Paris have been hacked and covered with an image of an ISIS flag. The front pages of the official municipality websites have been covered with the Jihadist militant group's black flag, play Arabic-language music and feature the message: "The Islamic State Stay Inshallah, Free Palestine, Death to France, Death to Charlie." Some of the sites that have been taken over include those of the towns of Jouy-le-Moutier, Piscop, Goussainville, Val D'Oise and Ezanville. All of them are situated around the French capital.

The AnonGhost states that hackers will attack French domains because AnonGhost strongly believes that France has been attacking the Islamic religion and ethics for too long.

Since AnonGhost launched #OPFrance it has targeted a telecom company, bank, and media firm and claimed to have crippled 100 websites during its assaults.



Summary and Recommendations

Threat Scope	The following websites and internet services are under threat: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organizations associated with France, particularly government related businesses• Islamic and pro-Islamic organizations• Organizations that may be perceived as anti-Islamic
Possible Threats	DDoS, website defacement, information theft, and more
Required Actions	Target organizations are required stay on high alert and monitor the website and network for any suspicious activity. Radware's ERT will continue to closely track these threats and provide updates on any additional steps required.

Radware Customers

In the event of an attack, please contact Radware support at support@Radware.com.

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