

# Anonymous, LulzSec, and Others Declare War on Every Government

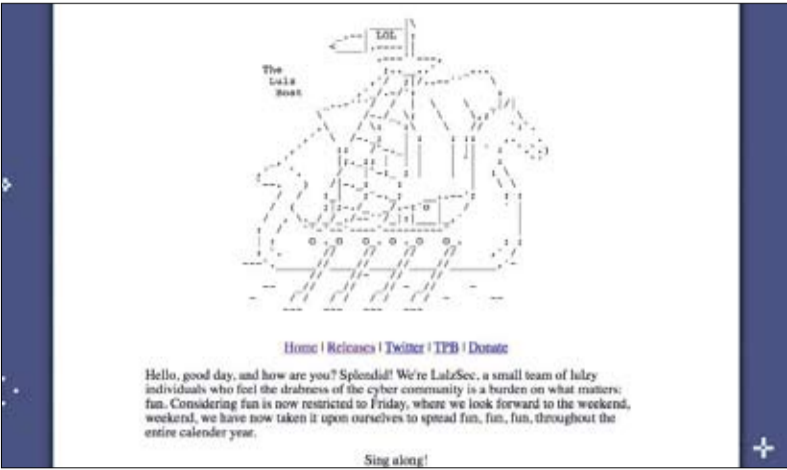
BY RIDGE SHAN & JOSH PHILIPP  
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Major “hacktivist” groups LulzSec and Anonymous have teamed together to facilitate their newest effort, dubbed “Operation Anti-Security” or AntiSec, to draw together all groups of hackers and general Internet haymakers in order to systematically target and attack government and corporate entities in what LulzSec calls “immediate and unremitting war on the freedom-snatching moderators of 2011.”

LulzSec encourages in a post on PasteBin—a public text board—that any and all followers, friend or foe, “steal and leak any classified government information”, adding that the main targets of the operation are “banks and other high-ranking establishments”.

This is the first time the group has committed itself to any obvious and explicit goal aside from garnering “lulz” or humour for the sake of entertainment. The group made a stand-point early in its existence to suggest that their actions are devoted toward embarrassing the powerful and the rich and exposing how insecure their networks and measures to protect the digital information of the masses are.

This is also the first time the two widely publicised hacker groups, LulzSec and Anonymous, have



The home page of the Hacker group Lulzsec. The group has breached the networks and databases of governments and major corporations such as Sony and Nintendo, leaking huge caches of personal data. LULZSECURITY.COM

collaborated and joined forces. Anonymous had stated previously that “LulzSec has nothing to do with Anonymous, apart that they sprang of the same base.”

Both groups are known for their high-profile hacks and Distributed Denial of Service attacks on major corporations and government websites.

Anonymous has always described their efforts as “peaceful protest” and acted in condemnation of Internet censorship and what they believe is the suppression of the freedom of speech.

In contrast, LulzSec is dedicated

to producing “high-quality entertainment at your expense” and have breached the networks and databases of targets ranging from Sony to FBI-affiliates and leaked huge caches of personal data from tens of thousands of Internet users.

“We do things just because we find it entertaining,” says LulzSec in another statement on PasteBin, “you find it funny to watch havoc unfold, and we find it funny to cause it. We release personal data so that equally evil people can entertain us with what they do with it.”

AntiSec is being announced as an anarchic revolution of sorts. The overall goal is to bring utter transparency to the government through the use of digital force. The movement accurately represents the culmination of the wave of attacks that have occurred in the past few months by miscellaneous hacker groups, originating from the PSN Qriocity breach in April.

The U.S. government is now only beginning to take a hardline approach toward the long-existing threat of cyberwarfare after recent and sophisticated attacks on government contractors and cybersecurity companies.

In a recently released document titled “International Strategy for Cyberspace”, the government says that “when warranted, the United States will respond to hostile acts in cyberspace as we would any other threat to our country”.

This new conflict boiling into an “unremitting war” is not between foreign nations or religious zealots, nor will it be fought on battlegrounds made of dirt and dust. Instead, the battles fought will be based upon mathematical algorithms and programming code. It will be the struggle of cyber rebels and anarchist computer-hackers against their governments and the perceived threat of those “terrorists across the world [who] continue to dominate and control our Internet ocean”.

# Glasses-Free 3D Smartphones Make Debut

BY RIDGE SHAN  
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Smartphone technology has gone one step further by incorporating glasses-free 3D display. Last Friday, the HTC Evo 3D became the first no-glasses 3D smartphone to be released, when it went on sale in the U.S. The phone also touts numerous features supported by its 3D capabilities.

The device contains a 4.3-inch Quarter High Definition touchscreen display and dual 5-megapixel cameras that can snap photos and take videos in both 3D and 2D. The Evo 3D is governed by the Android 2.3 “Gingerbread” operating system.

Software on the system will also be optimised for 3D, including the

HTC Watch App, HTC’s new video streaming service, the full film “The Green Hornet 3D” for free, and the ability to download 3D games and other content.

The Evo 3D will receive competition soon, however, from the LG Thrill 4G, which will launch later this summer in the United States.

The Thrill 4G will also feature a 4.3-inch touchscreen display and dual 5-megapixel 3D-capable cameras. The Thrill 4G will run on Android 2.2 “Froyo” but will be upgradable to 2.3, and includes its own slew of 3D features, like preloaded 3D games, Youtube 3D, and other 3D content through the on-demand online service mSpot.

While no specific date has been given yet, the HTC Evo 3D is expected to launch in Singapore in the later half of this year.



The New HTC Evo 3D, the first no-glasses 3D smartphone on the market, began sales in the United States last Friday. COURTESY OF HTC.COM

# Internet Addiction Alters Brain Structure

BY RIDGE SHAN  
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A recent study conducted by scientists from Xidian University in China and several other medical research institutes in China and the U.S., published through PLoS One, a peer-reviewed scientific journal, has concluded that long-term Internet addiction, especially during the formative years of adolescence, may produce an altered brain structure.

The study describes rising instances of Internet Addiction Disorder (IAD) among adolescent youth throughout the world, most prevalently in China where the addiction rate among urban youth is approximately 14 percent, or 24 million kids.

The study links IAD with “impairment of [an] individual’s psychological well-being, academic failure and reduced work performance,” stating that although not universally accepted as a medical phenomenon, “IAD is growing in prevalence and has attracted the attention of psychiatrists, educators, and the public.”

According to the article, other studies have shown other indicating factors, for example that the crave for online gaming and the crave for highly addictive and dependent chemical substances, like opiates, may “share the same neurobiological mechanisms”, that adolescents



Internet Addiction Disorder (IAD) is becoming increasingly prevalent among adolescents, and according to a new study has significant and possibly adverse effects on brain structure. PORNCHAI KITTIWONGSAKUL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

with IAD are more impulsive than those without, and that IAD test subjects processed information less effectively.

The study itself was conducted by selecting 18 college-aged healthy controls without IAD and 18 equally-aged and gendered students that were determined to have IAD based on their answering of a modified 8 question version of the Young Diagnostic Questionnaire for Internet addiction developed by Dr. Kimberly Young, a psychiatrist and professor at St. Bonaventure University who founded the Centre for Internet Addiction in 1995.

Each of the test subjects spent up to 10 or more hours per day at least 6 days a week playing online games. Information about the lifestyles and intensity of addiction in each test subject was further verified by conversations and interviews with friends, peers, and family.

The test involved scanning the brain of each of the test subjects for gray matter, neural tissue on

the surface of the brain and in the spinal cord which directs sensory input, and white matter, neural tissue made from nerve fibre which connects the gray matter and allows different parts of gray matter to communicate with the rest of the body.

The results show that “gray matter volumes ... showed a negative correlation with months of Internet addiction,” asserting that “no brain regions [in IAD subjects] showed higher gray matter volume than healthy controls”.

With white matter, the test showed that subjects with IAD had higher concentrations of it in certain parts of the brain and lower concentrations in other parts when compared to the healthy control group.

The study conclusively states that “our results suggested that long-term Internet addiction would result in brain structural alterations, which probably contributed to chronic dysfunction in subjects with IAD.”

# Former Exec: Apple to Launch TVs

BY RIDGE SHAN  
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As television entertainment begins to shift to a more digital medium via on-line streaming and Internet broadcasts, rumours circulate that Apple Inc. is planning on pushing aside popular streaming services like Netflix by entering a completely new market.

According to an article from DailyTech.com, an online tech publication, a former unnamed Apple executive spoke to the online magazine and revealed that Apple plans on soon launching a new line of TV sets with the Apple TV Internet rental device and iTunes built in.

The source stated that the TVs will potentially launch in fall and will “blow Netflix and all those other guys away”. The information was not independently verifiable.

Apple TV revenues are reported in conjunction with iPhone subscriptions, making the actual sales performance of Apple TV difficult to gage, however movies continue to sell well on iTunes, which held almost two-thirds of the Internet Video on Demand (iVOD) market in 2010 according to a report from IHS Screen Digest, a media-focused research, publishing, and consulting company.

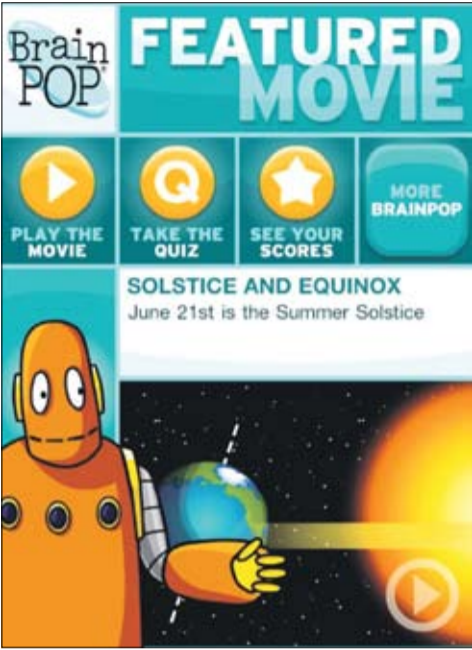
The iVOD lead gives Apple a viable opportunity to expand its Apple TV product line, especially in the face of its newest rehash from last year, which is selling at a considerably cheaper US\$99 (S\$122) price than its original version.

Apple also has plenty of experience in the display field, having developed and sold high-definition monitors for Mac PCs for years.

Google’s recent acquisition of the media software and technology company SemaTV also provides good reason for a hastened Apple response against its competitor.



## iPhone App of the Week: BrainPOP (Free App)



An app that provides daily five-minute educational videos for school-age children.

TAN TRUONG/THE EPOCH TIMES

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If you’re over 30 years old, you’ve probably never heard of BrainPOP, but it’s an award-winning website with animated videos designed to teach traditional educational topics. Its primary audience is school-age children and with its entertaining and captivating style, it is used by a large number of schools in the United States.

The videos were originally Flash animations and are now being converted into conventional movie files that can be viewed on mobile devices.

If you have an iOS device such as an iPhone or iPad, the BrainPOP website is not viewable on your device, but they have a free app that you can download to view some of the content. Although you don’t have access to the complete library as you do through their website, you’re able to see a new video each day. In this way, the app is more like a teaser for the website and maybe once they’ve finished converting their entire library, the app will also provide complete access.

In its current form, the app still provides good value since a new five-minute video is released daily. It’s not a lot, but for many parents, that’s just about the right amount of screen time for their children. The animations are colourful and stylised in a simple way that makes them easy to watch. The

presentation is usually funny, if somewhat corny, and always engaging, while the educational content is rational and intelligent. Some parents may take issue with the educational perspective presented in BrainPOP but it is merely the same content that is taught in most public schools in the United States. This should not detract from BrainPOP being a useful learning tool. For parents that have different views or in-depth expertise in certain areas, the mainstream perspective and knowledge that BrainPOP presents provides a perfect teaching opportunity.

Along with each video, an optional multiple-choice quiz is provided that tests the viewer’s retention and comprehension. Although the ten-question quiz may be tedious to go through, the thinking that it provokes effectively turns something that starts out as entertainment into a learning experience.

With this app, if you miss a day you can’t go back to view the previous day’s video so you’ll have to open the app every day if you want to catch every bit of entertainment. In this way, the BrainPOP app entices avid learners to pay for a subscription to the BrainPOP website. If your learning speed is more casual, then the app alone may be all you need.



The Apple logo is displayed on the exterior of an Apple retail store on 18 January 2011 in San Francisco, California. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

# Bloomberg Reports iPhone 5 Hardware and iOS

BY RIDGE SHAN  
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Apple Inc. plans on releasing the iPhone 5 in September, according to testimony from “two people familiar with the project”, said Bloomberg on Wednesday.

The report details information given by unnamed sources who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The iPhone leakers “asked not to be identified because the details aren’t public”.

Some of the details they released include the possibility that “Apple pushed back the release of the next iPhone –its fifth—to coincide with the release of the new iOS 5.”

If this is true, the iPhone 5 will most likely run on the iOS 5, dubbed “Telluride”, and include a slew of new features that were demonstrated at the Apple World Wide Developer’s Conference earlier in the month.

According to Bloomberg’s sources, the device will include the new 1-GHz A5 dual-core processor, previously placed into Apple’s iPad 2, which will allow the device to process information much faster.

“The release of a new iPhone may help Apple cut in to Android’s market share,” says Charlie Wolf, an analyst at Needham & Co. in New York in an interview with Bloomberg.

Google has been gaining shares of the smartphone market much faster than Apple this year, marketing a strategy that gives their Android operating system away for free. The iPhone 5’s new iOS and processing hardware may change this.

Bloomberg’s sources also mentioned the iPad 3, stating that it will have a screen that is a third higher in resolution than the previous iPad 2.

Bloomberg’s sources also state that the iPhone 5 “will closely resemble the iPhone 4”.