Ministry of State, Home Office
Royal Kingdom of Gotzborg

BRIEFING DOCUMENT 2005-01
Re: Ezboard System Crash of 31 May 2005

Date: 13 June 2005

On 31 May of this year, Ezboard Inc. was the target of a malicious hacker who proceeded to attack servers, essentially bringing down upwards of nine thousands discussion boards on the network. In addition to this, the hacker also deleted backup files of the Ezboard database, in effect destroying the ability for Ezboard to guarantee a full restore of lost information at the affected servers and discussion boards. Badly affected by this attack were most of the micronational forums on the network, including those of the Kingdom of Gotzborg.

Initially only a few forums at our national discussion boards were wiped clean of their content, however overnight and into 01 Jun, all remaining forums were affected by the acts undertaken by the aforementioned hacker. In essence, only a handful of threads at the national forums escaped deletion in the attack, leaving a deletion rate of nearly 100% affecting Gotzborg. Due to the vigilant efforts of micronationalist Lachlan Powers, who was able to save a small number of posts from nations including Shireroth, Babkha, and Gotzborg, the Konizplatz forum posts which survived the initial incident were largely saved from permanent deletion.

Almost two full weeks following the incident, Gotzborg's national forums have yet to be restored. Some government officials were able to save vital information pertaining to each individual ministry, and the Home Office has on file upwards of two dozen threads from the national forums, saved previously for various purposes. Ezboard Inc. is unable to guarantee that lost data will ever be restored though they are making every effort to restore any posts they can through a five step process. To date, they are entering into the fourth step of the process.

Whether the Gotzborg national forums can be fully, or partially, restored by the processes being undertaken at Ezboard Inc. is no longer the concern of the Home Office. This issue has been out of our hands since after this ministry notified all citizens to save any national forums content in their individual Internet caches. The concern of the Home Office is now to take appropriate measures, in cooperation with the Office of His Royal Majesty, the Foreign Office, and our own ministries, to prevent such catastrophic fallout from a similar event in the future.

Recommendations

The Home Office presents the following recommendations to the Royal Cabinet for consideration.

1. That each person in the employ of the Royal Government be required to save, to their hard drive, a copy of all information he/she posts to the national forums, as well as any threads relating to their governmental duties. This 'backing-up' of key information is to occur at least once a month with a zip (or rar) file containing all the saved forum threads being emailed to His Royal Majesty for archiving every six months.
2. That the Public Records Office be transferred to the national website so as to guard against any lost of the important information contained within this forum. Given the frequency with which this archive is updated, manpower is not a major issue in updating a website with duplicates of the forum contents.
3. That the Royal Cabinet explores methods through which a full regular backup of threads at the national forums can be undertaken. There is a program for conversion between Ezboard thread and PHP discussion board thread format. While Gotzborg is not using a PHP discussion board, in the event of a future crisis, a recent copy of all threads would still exist with the option of bringing online a PHP board to provide easy access to the archive.

END