

US IT Systems Highly Vulnerable To Attack

September 8 2005

Our nation's information technology infrastructure, which includes air traffic control systems, power grids, financial systems, and military and intelligence cyber networks, is highly vulnerable to terrorist and criminal attacks, according to an article in the August issue of IEEE-USA Today's Engineer.

"The country's problem with cyber security is very serious, and is going to get worse in the next five years before it gets any better," IEEE-USA Research & Development Policy Committee Chair Cliff Lau told Today's Engineer. (Published August, 2005) "I would say the situation not only is alarming, but is almost out of control."

Author Barton Reppert, who interviewed two members of the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee (PITAC), notes that 100,000 known viruses and worms exist, and that some major end-users are throwing out infected systems rather than trying to fix them.

Nevertheless, according to PITAC, there is little federal budgetary support for fundamental research to address the security vulnerabilities of the civilian IT infrastructure, including defense systems.

To read "United States Facing Cyber Security Crisis, Experts Tell Capitol Hill Briefing, As IEEE-USA Prepares New Position Statement," go to todaysengineer.org.

Copyright 2005 by Space Daily, Distributed United Press International

Citation: US IT Systems Highly Vulnerable To Attack (2005, September 8) retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2005-09-highly-vulnerable.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.