

China deploys secure computer operating system

May 12 2009



Chinese people surfing the internet in Beijing, 2007. China has installed a secure operating system known as "Kylin" on government and military computers designed to be impenetrable to US military and intelligence agencies, The Washington Times reported.

China has installed a secure operating system known as "Kylin" on government and military computers designed to be impenetrable to US military and intelligence agencies, The Washington Times reported on Tuesday.

The newspaper said the existence of the secure [operating system](#) was disclosed to Congress during recent hearings which included new details on how China's government is preparing to wage cyberwarfare with the United States.

Kevin Coleman, a private security specialist who discussed Kylin during the April 30 hearing of the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, said its deployment is significant because it has "hardened" key Chinese servers.

Coleman told the Times that Kylin has been under development since 2001 and the first Chinese computers to use it are government and [military](#) servers that were converted beginning in 2007.

"This action also made our offensive cybercapabilities ineffective against them, given the cyberweapons were designed to be used against Linux, UNIX and Windows," he said, citing three popular computer operating systems.

The newspaper said US offensive cyberwar capabilities have been mainly focused on getting into Chinese government and military computers outfitted with less secure operating systems like Microsoft's Windows.

Coleman said Chinese state or state-affiliated entities are on a wartime footing in seeking electronic information from the US [government](#), contractors and industrial computer networks.

The Chinese have also developed a secure microprocessor that, unlike US-made chips, is known to be hardened against external access by a hacker or automated [malicious software](#), Coleman said.

"If you add a hardened microchip and a hardened operating system, that makes a really good solid platform for defending infrastructure," he said.

"In the cyberarena, China is playing chess while we're playing checkers," Coleman said, adding that China is equal to the United States and Russia in military cyberwarfare.

"This is a three-horse race, and it is a dead heat," he said.

The US-China Economic and Security Review Commission warned last year that China has developed a sophisticated cyber warfare program and stepped up its capacity to penetrate US computer networks to extract sensitive information.

"China is aggressively pursuing cyber warfare capabilities that may provide it with an asymmetric advantage against the United States," the commission said in the report released in November.

China rejected the findings of the commission and has also dismissed more recent US newspaper reports that Chinese hackers were behind a cyber attack on computers linked to the Pentagon's Joint Strike Fighter project.

(c) 2009 AFP

Citation: China deploys secure computer operating system (2009, May 12) retrieved 2 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2009-05-china-deploys.html>

<p>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.</p>
--