

Hacker used Twitter to control infected PCs

August 14 2009, By JORDAN ROBERTSON , AP Technology Writer

(AP) -- Twitter's been having a rough couple of weeks.

A researcher looking into the attacks that knocked [Twitter](#) offline last week discovered another, unrelated security problem.

At least one criminal was using a Twitter account to control a network of a couple hundred infected personal computers, mostly in Brazil. Networks of infected PCs are referred to as "botnets" and are responsible for so much of the mayhem online, from identity theft to spamming to the types of attacks that crippled Twitter.

The discovery was made by Jose Nazario with Arbor Networks. The affected Twitter account was taken down. Twitter didn't immediately respond to e-mails from The Associated Press.

©2009 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Hacker used Twitter to control infected PCs (2009, August 14) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2009-08-hacker-twitter-infected-pcs.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>
--