

Google's Gmail adds security after China hacking

January 13 2010



(AP) -- Google is tightening the security of its free e-mail service to combat computer hackers like the ones that recently targeted it in China.

With the shift, Gmail accounts will automatically be set in an "https" mode, meaning contents of e-mail will be scrambled so they're less likely to leak out to unauthorized users. Before, only the log-in data was encrypted.

Google hadn't been using this more secure format as Gmail's default setting because it can be slower than the unprotected mode.

The shift to the more secure setting began late Tuesday, just a few hours after Google announced Chinese hackers had pried into the e-mail accounts of human rights activists. Google is now considering pulling out

of [China](#) and shutting down its [search engine](#) there because of the attacks.

©2010 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Google's Gmail adds security after China hacking (2010, January 13) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2010-01-google-gmail-china-hacking.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.