

Authorities bust 3 in infection of 13M computers

March 2 2010, By JORDAN ROBERTSON , AP Technology Writer

(AP) -- Authorities have smashed one of the world's biggest networks of virus-infected computers. It was a data vacuum that stole credit cards and online banking credentials from as many as 12.7 million poisoned PCs.

The "botnet" of infected computers included PCs inside more than half of the Fortune 1,000 companies. More than 40 major banks were infiltrated, according to investigators.

Spanish investigators, working with private computer-security firms, have arrested the three alleged ringleaders of the so-called Mariposa [botnet](#), which appeared in December 2008 and grew into one of the biggest weapons of cybercrime.

More arrests are expected soon in other countries. That is unusual - the masterminds behind the biggest botnets aren't often taken down.

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 This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Authorities bust 3 in infection of 13M computers (2010, March 2) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2010-03-authorities-infection-13m.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>
--