

Sony to restore PlayStation Network by end of May

May 10 2011



In this Jan. 27, 2011 photo, Sony Computer Entertainment President and CEO Kazuo Hirai speaks how to use its new PlayStation Portable "NGP" at PlayStation Meeting 2011 in Tokyo. Sony says it aims to fully restore its PlayStation Network, shut down after a massive security breach, by the end of May. Sony shut down the network, a system that links gamers worldwide in live play, on April 20 after discovering the security breach. Sony said the network intrusion has compromised personal data from over 100 million online accounts. (AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi, File)

(AP) -- Sony said Tuesday it aims to fully restore its PlayStation Network, shut down after a massive security breach affecting over 100 million online accounts, by the end of May.

Sony also confirmed that personal data from 24.6 million user accounts was stolen in the hacker attack last month. Personal data, including

[credit card numbers](#), might have been stolen from another 77 million PlayStation accounts, said [Sony Computer Entertainment](#) Inc. spokesman Satoshi Fukuoka.

He said Sony has not received any reports of illegal uses of stolen information, and the company is continuing its probe into the [hacker attack](#). He declined to give details on the investigation.

Sony shut down the PlayStation network, a system that links gamers worldwide in live play, on April 20 after discovering the security breach. The network also allows users to upgrade and download games and other content.

Sony was under heavy criticism over its handling of the network intrusion. The company did not notify consumers of the breach until April 26 even though it began investigating unusual activity on the network since April 19.

Last month, U.S. lawyers filed a lawsuit against Sony on behalf of lead plaintiff Kristopher Johns for negligent protection of personal data and failure to inform players in a timely fashion that their [credit card information](#) may have been stolen. The lawsuit seeks class-action status.

Fukuoka declined to comment on the lawsuit.

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Citation: Sony to restore PlayStation Network by end of May (2011, May 10) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-05-sony-playstation-network.html>

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