

# Sony's PlayStation 'gradually coming back'

December 27 2014, by Becca Milfeld

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People testing the new Playstation consoles at the annual E3 video game extravaganza in Los Angeles, California on June 10, 2014

Sony was still struggling Saturday to fully restore its online PlayStation system, three days after the Christmas day hack that also hit Microsoft's Xbox, reporting that services were "gradually coming back."

Meanwhile, Xbox was up and running except for three of its applications, following an allegedly coordinated attack that sent both companies scrambling.

PlayStation, whose support homepage reported that the system was still offline, tweeted Saturday that "PS4, PS3, and Vita network services are gradually coming back online - thanks for your patience."

A new Twitter user going by the name "Lizard Squad" took credit for the disruption, claiming it had the "nation on strings."

The name is the same used by a group of hackers that has targeted Sony in the past, though it was not possible to verify the Twitter account's authenticity.

The account did not return requests for comment and only became active Wednesday.

Sony had earlier this month been hit by a sophisticated hacking attack that stole massive amounts of data from its servers.

The US has blamed North Korea for the attack, with the reclusive state furious at the release of Sony film "The Interview," which parodies leader Kim Jong-Un.

After initially canceling the film's December 25 release, Sony backtracked and brought it out to a small number of US theaters.

The film was also made available online—including through the Xbox console and, soon, the PlayStation.

However, analysts said a direct connection with the Sony Pictures attack was unlikely, and that the latest hack was probably the work of fame-seeking amateurs.

"The timing suggests that this is an attack that we can put in the category of adolescents who are looking for a bit of glory," said Pierre Samson of

the European Circle Security and Information Systems.

"There is a very small probability that there was a direct link with the attack on Sony Pictures. You can order an attack to online services fairly easily with few resources."



Xbox is up and running except for three of its applications, following an allegedly coordinated attack that sent both companies scrambling

He said thousands of similar hacks are launched daily, although they are not always effective.

## **Gamers vent**

Though a [direct connection](#) between "The Interview" and the service disruptions could not be confirmed, some gamers were convinced a link

exists.

"I blame that darn movie 'The Interview,'" wrote a user going by as2009man on a PlayStation community forum message board.

"It's the gift that keeps on giving."

Another poster to the same forum said he was getting fed up with the game world's vulnerability to repeated denial of service [attacks](#).

"A DDos attack is like a semi (truck) driver intentionally jackknifing his rig on a busy interstate and shutting down traffic for a few hours," said a gamer writing under the name shadoefax.

Game users also took to Twitter to vent their frustration.

"After this christmas, #lizardsquad is forever on the naughty list," one frustrated gamer fumed.

A major cyber attack on PlayStation in 2011 saw personal details from 77 million customers stolen, preventing customers from playing online and forcing Sony to disable the network for more than three weeks.

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