
A Recent Major Internet Cyberattack

A most recent cyber attack that captured the attention of America's federal agents was the hacker's targeting of the US Gas Pipelines. The article reports this cyber incident in Dan Gunderman's issue of the 4th of June 2018. According to the Incident of the Week, the cyber-attack led to the loss of data and the eventual shutting down of the Pipeline's communications command systems. The New York Times, however, reported in their issue that the hacking did not affect the companies that were caught in the melee. There were no nation-wide gas service interruptions. However, it remains unclear as to how many customers and client information and data was lost in the process. The most affected companies, however, included the Eastern Shore Natural Gas, Energy Transfer Partners, and Oneok amongst others. Most of these companies reported malfunctions in their communication systems during the incident.

According to the New York Times editorial of that day, the target seems to have been Latitude Technologies which specializes in shipments, gas storage, and plus energy contracts. Recommended Solutions Information Technology experts recommend an entire reconnaissance in the gas industry. There should be the adoption of safer data backup plans and protection against threats and vulnerabilities that lead to the loss of consumer data, information on trends, and change in trade balances. It would also be advisable that these oil and gas companies opt for other alternatives in valve control, monitoring, and shipment techniques or methods. Failing to change with technology would render the company vulnerable to an even greater and more sophisticated attack in the future. It is therefore important to raise awareness as to the dangers posed by increased and more informed hackers and cybercriminals. The Trump Administration is also planning to establish an office within the Department of Energy to mitigate the recurrence of such an eventuality in the future.

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