Michael Barkoviak / DailyTech

April 08, 2009

The Pentagon has invested \$100M in the past six months to keep it safe from cyber attack.

Military leaders recently disclosed information saying the Pentagon has spent upwards of \$100 million to defend the country against cyber attacks from domestic and overseas computer threats.

"The important thing is that we recognized that we are under assault from the least sophisticated -- what I would say the bored teenager -- all the way up to the sophisticated nation-state, with some pretty criminal elements sandwiched in-between," said Air Force Gen. Kevin Chilton, director of the U.S. Strategic Command. "This is indeed our big challenge, as we think about how to defend it."

Strategic Command is in charge of defending the Pentagon from cyber attacks that range from vandalism and harmless scanning to cyber espionage.

The government invested the money in necessary manpower, contractors and computer technology to fix cyber security issues related to internal mistakes and external attacks. Officials elected not to disclose how much of the money was spent to fix the system from outside attack, but cyber security is a growing issue among politicians lately.

Pentagon computers are scanned by outsiders millions of times every day, which is becoming increasingly dangerous as there are more reports of possible government-led attacks from China and Eastern Europe.

China recently deflected concern regarding cyber espionage from western nations, who blame the country for attacking government computers in the United States, United Kingdom, Japan, and numerous other countries.

China was recently blamed for the creation and use of GhostNet, a government-operated system that hacked secure computers in 103 nations, compromising a total of 1,300 computers. Furthermore, GhostNet targeted banks, financial institutions, foreign embassies, media outlets, and the Dalai Lama.

(c) DailyTech 2009