



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN
Directorate of Intelligence/Cyber Intelligence Section

14 September 2011

(U//FOUO) Anonymous' Participation in "Day of Rage" Protest May Coincide with Cyber Attack

(U//FOUO) The FBI assesses that the hacktivist group Anonymous is likely to participate in the "Day of Rage" protest scheduled for 17 September 2011 in New York City's financial district. While the extent of group members' participation in the event is unknown, in late August 2011 Anonymous endorsed the event through propaganda consisting of a video posted on YouTube and a campaign poster, as well as references in their Twitter accounts.¹

(U//FOUO) In the past, Anonymous has been involved in physical protests that coincided with planned cyber attacks. This could indicate an intention to conduct a cyber attack in conjunction with the "Day of Rage" protest.

- (U//FOUO) In August 2011, Anonymous planned multiple protests against San Francisco's Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART). These physical protests, which became violent and resulted in numerous arrests, were combined with cyber intrusions that defaced Web sites and compromised the personal information of BART police officers.²
- (U//FOUO) Anonymous planned to conduct a distributed denial of service (DDoS)^a attack on Quantico facilities on 20 March 2011 to coincide with the physical protests at the base against the incarceration of Private First Class Bradley Manning.³ While a physical protest did occur, there was no successful DDoS attack.

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(U) Propaganda poster used by Anonymous to endorse the "Day of Rage" protest.

(U) Anonymous plans to release a new DDoS tool to the public called RefRef in September 2011, according to open source reporting. Anonymous has tested this tool with successful DDoS attacks on WikiLeaks, Pastebin^b, and 4chan.org^c.⁴ Currently, it is unknown if the release date

^a (U) A distributed denial of service is a type of attack that floods a network with so many requests for information that regular service is slowed or interrupted.

^b (U) Pastebin is a Web application that allows users to post portions of text for public viewing.

will correspond with the “Day of Rage” protest.

(U) “Day of Rage” Protest

(U) The “Day of Rage” is a physical protest against US capitalism that is being organized by several activist groups. Open source reporting claims that “non-violent civil disobedience” will occur during this event on 17 September 2011 in New York City’s financial district. Similar protests may take place in cities around the world, such as Tokyo, London, Frankfurt, Madrid, Sydney, and Toronto to coincide with the Manhattan protest.⁵

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(U) Memo to Volunteers from the “Day of Rage” Organizers

On September 17, we want to see 20,000 people flood into lower Manhattan, set up tents, kitchens, peaceful barricades and occupy Wall Street for a few months. Once there, we shall incessantly repeat our one simple demand until Barack Obama capitulates.

...there is a very real danger that if we naively put our cards on the table and rally around the “overthrow of capitalism” or some equally outworn utopian slogan, then our Tahrir^b moment will quickly fizzle into another inconsequential ultra-lefty spectacle soon forgotten. But if we have the cunning to come up with a deceptively simple Trojan Horse demand...

See you on Wall St. Sept 17. Bring Tent.

^b (U) Tahrir is an Arabic word meaning “liberation” and may refer to the January 2011 Tahrir Square protest in Cairo, Egypt.

(U) Examiner.com; “Beware the U.S. ‘day of rage’ September 17”;- National Conservative | Examiner.com; <http://www.examiner.com/conservative-in-national/beware-the-u-s-day-of-rage-september-17#ixzz1XMeG9Q3G>.

(U) Outlook and Implications

(U//FOUO) The FBI judges—based on the outcomes of other physical protests that Anonymous has been involved in, such as BART—the group’s endorsement of the “Day of Rage” protest could increase media attention and attendance for this event. The reported release of RefRef on 17 September 2011 may lead to cyber attacks, such as DDoS attacks, in addition to the physical protests scheduled for this date. The potential for cyber attacks could lead to a disruption of service or a release of sensitive information. Since these protests are focused on financial services, if a cyber attack were to occur, financial institutions could be targeted.

(U//FOUO) This intelligence bulletin addresses the FBI Intelligence Collection Requirements for Cyber Intrusions: Hacktivists, WW-CYBR-CYD-SR-0057-11.

(U) This product has been prepared by the Domestic Threats Cyber Intelligence Unit of the FBI. Comments and queries may be addressed to the Unit Chief at 202-651-3051.

^c (U) 4chan.org is an online Web site where individuals can hold conversations by posting messages and images.

(U) Endnotes

¹ (U) Online Article; Dave Neal; 25 August 2011; “Anonymous Sets its Sights on Wall Street”; www.theinquireer.net/inquirer/news/2104394/anonymous-sets-sights-wall-street; last accessed 8 September 2011.

² (U) Online Article; Vivian Ho; 22 August 2011; “Anonymous Planning Another BART Protest”; http://articles.sfgate.com/2011-08-22/news/29913744_1_sony-s-playstations-network-supporters-civic-center-station; last accessed 12 September 2011.

³ (U) Online Article; CBC News; 10 March 2011; “Pro-WikiLeaks Activists Target Base Holding Bradley Manning”; <http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/story/2011/03/10/anonymous-manning-quantico-ddos.html>; last accessed 13 September 2011.

⁴ (U) Online Article; Steve Ragan; 1 September 2011; “WikiLeaks Knocked Offline by Anonymous – RefRef due Sept. 17”; www.thetechherald.com/article.php/201135/7560/WikiLeaks-knocked-offline-by-Anonymous; last accessed 8 September 2011.

⁵ (U) Online Article; Anthony Martin; 21 August 2011; “Beware the U.S. ‘Day of Rage’ September 17”; www.examiner.com/conservative-in0national/beware-the-u-s-day-of-rage-september-17; last accessed 8 September 2011.

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