

CYBER SECURITY BULLETIN

Cyber Security Bulletin Number: 008

Risks of Using Torrents

A torrent file is a computer file that contains a data about files and folders (this files are usually movies, music, software or ebooks). This data also contains list of the network locations of trackers, which are computers participating in a *peer-to-peer* (P2P) network. Torrents are not maintained and distributed by a website; instead those tasks fall upon the users of P2P networks. When a computer participating in a P2P network starts downloading a file, it immediately begin “seeding” (providing their downloaded data for upload) to other participants of P2P. Since a computer downloads from multiple sources, torrents are generally fast and convenient way to download. Before you start using torrent, here are the risks involved to your computer and to the Philippine Army Network.

Vulnerability

Torrents have been known to assist online hackers in gaining access to users of P2P networks. When a torrent is downloaded, the person receiving it gets a look at the IP addresses of all the contributing peers. Hackers collect this information so they can target vulnerable computers. If you are connected to the Philippine Army Network and using torrent, you are actually opening our network for exploitation from hackers. Remember, the Philippines is confronting international issues, our adversaries are watching our networks for security holes.

Malware Risks

Torrent downloads are basically downloading from multiple personal computers, many of these are infected with Virus, Trojans, Keyloggers and Worms. Malwares are often purposely attached for the purpose of data theft or identity theft. These Viruses and Worms can actually replicate inside our network which is hard to track down and sanitize, thus, very annoying for computer users of the PA Net.

Legal Implication

Large portion of files available in the P2P networks contain copyrighted material, making available for distribution such data is illegal. Our local VIVA Entertainment Company has actually authorized its international partners to pursue legal actions against entities that are distributing, downloading and uploading pirated VIVA Entertainment movies. If you are connected to the PA Net and also using torrent with copyrighted material, you are putting the name of the Philippine Army in shame. Remember when you are using the internet, your IP address is not what appears in the internet, what appears is the IP Address of the Philippine Army because PA Net is providing the routable IP address for you in the World Wide Web.

Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride

The Philippine government may not be effective in enforcing intellectual property rights unlike other countries, but will one day soon. Moreover, by using Torrent be aware that you are aiding hackers, whether black hat hackers, state sponsored hackers and hacktivists in getting into our systems.

References:

<http://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/peertopeer>

<http://smallbusiness.chron.com/dangers-torrents-70661.html>

<http://philippinereporter.com/2013/02/22/illegal-movie-downloading-and-piracy-of-dvd-content>

RA8293-Intellectual_Property Code of the Philippines

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land