

Hackers Claim Revenge Attack On NCA Website

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The Lizard Squad tweeted this picture after the NCA site went down

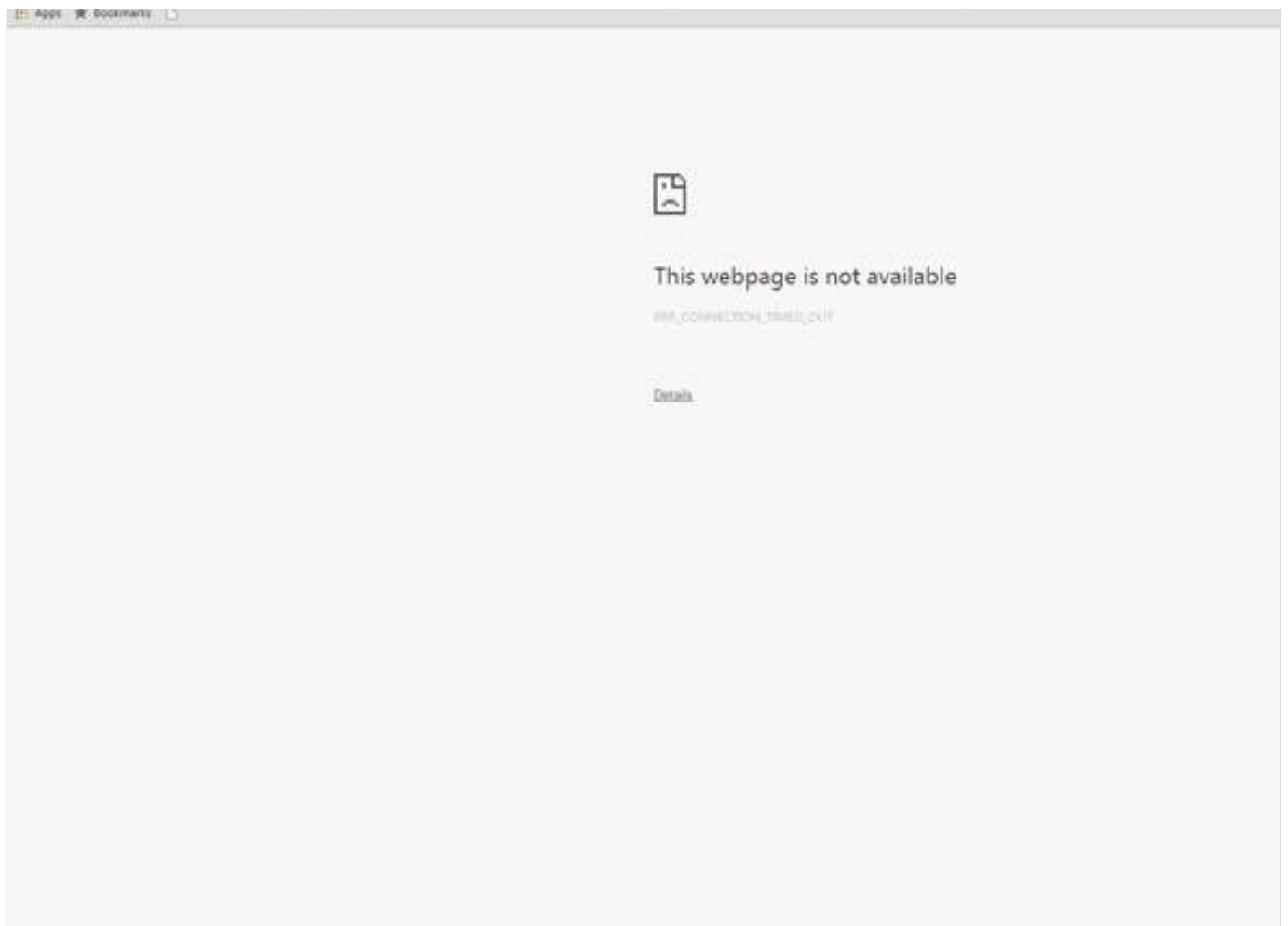
By Joe Tidy, Sky News Reporter

Hackers claim they have attacked the National Crime Agency website in revenge for authorities arresting people for previous internet attacks.

The NCA website was down on Tuesday morning after being the subject of a Distributed Denial of Service attack, which involves over-loading a website with too much traffic.

At about 9am the hacking group Lizard Squad tweeted a message reading: "Stressed out? <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/> #offline."

It was accompanied by a picture of a lizard in a top hat and monocle - the Lizard Squad's Twitter picture - with the words "Stressed Out?" and the National Crime Agency's official logo both superimposed over it.



The NCA's website was unavailable on Tuesday morning

On 28 August, the NCA arrested six people as part of Operation Vivarium for allegedly purchasing a hacking attack tool which allows users to temporarily shut down websites.

Among the organisations believed to have been targeted are a national newspaper, a school, gaming companies and online retailers.

Those arrested are accused of buying code - known as Lizard Stresser - from Lizard Squad, which has claimed responsibility for the high-profile attacks on the Microsoft and Sony games networks last year.

The NCA, which has been dubbed Britain's FBI, said in a statement its site is an "attractive target" and "attacks on it are a fact of life".

They added the hack was not a security breach and has not affected its "operational capability".

The organisation added in its statement that such attacks are a "temporary inconvenience to users of our website".

"We have a duty to balance the value of keeping our website accessible with the cost of doing so, especially in the face of a threat which can scale up endlessly.

"The measures we have in place at present mean that our site is generally up and running again within 30 minutes, though occasionally it can take longer.

"We think that's proportionate."

Carl Gottlieb, a cyber security specialist, said the attack was embarrassing, but not surprising.

"Ultimately the public have a perception that the NCA would be invulnerable to these types of cyber attacks," told Sky News.

"However within the security community, we know there is very little that cash-strapped Government departments can do about this.

"It's purely a commercial and financial issue, because the cost to defend against this is so much higher than the cost to attack.

"We're talking about the NCA having to spend tens of thousands of pounds a year, at least, to protect their website."

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