Written by Jacqueline Lawson Friday, 09 November 2012 12:17



The websites of PayPal, Symantec and several other companies have been hacked.

The Anonymous hacker collective has claimed responsibility for the cyberattacks, claiming on Twitter the hacks are part of a "November 5th protest."

The Anonymous Twitter account also claims the group's members have defaced several Australian and Ecuadorean websites, as well as Imageshack. Hackers have also apparently leaked the VMware ESX Server Kernel source code to the public.

Anonymous however claims the defacement of NBC's website, which happened over the weekend, had nothing to do with them.

As the number of defaced websites mounts, rumors spread of a possible attack on Facebook, though many such rumors have been proven false in the past.

Anonymous has also called for a public protest in front of Britain's Houses of Parliament on Monday, the day before the US Presidential elections. "This is the centrepiece of a worldwide Anonymous operation of global strength and solidarity, a warning to all governments worldwide that if they keep trying to censor, cut, imprison, or silence the free world or the free internet they will not be our governments for much longer," says the event's description on Facebook.

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"Guy Fawkes day," which falls on November 5, is a primarily British annual commemoration of a failed assassination attempt on King James I. Guy Fawkes was a member of the Gunpowder Plot who was arrested while guarding explosives placed beneath the House of Lords. Following the 2006 release of the film V for Vendetta, in which the main protagonist uses the "Guy Fawkes" mask, the mask has been used by Anonymous as an anti-establishment symbol.