

# Cyber-Terrorism: A New Definition for a New Reality

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## Abstract

This presentation on Cyber-Terrorism is very much devoted to raising awareness about the following issues:

1. The integration of physical infrastructures and cyber infrastructures
2. The interdependence of our nation's electronic infrastructures
3. The need for a new type of IT Security professional with knowledge of infrastructure security issues
4. Why our nation's terrorist enemies are actively researching ways to leverage these vulnerabilities
5. And some first hand accounts of my research into what information is being posted online that could assist and attack, how to evaluate information before you post it, and some other examples of unintended security consequences during various technology deployments.

## Biography



Dan Verton is Vice President and Executive Editor of Homeland Defense Journal and IT\*SECURITY Magazine. Dan is a former senior writer for Computerworld magazine and Federal Computer Week in Washington, D.C. His work during the past eight years has been featured regularly on CNN, The History Channel, PC World, Information Security Magazine, USA Today, and many other media outlets.

Dan is also the author of the highly acclaimed book *Black Ice: The Invisible threat of Cyber-Terrorism* (McGraw-Hill, 2003), endorsed by some of the nation's top experts as one of the best descriptions of the terrorist threat to critical cyber infrastructures to date. As a result of his work, Dan has been asked to present his research into the high-tech future of terrorism to the Department of Homeland Security, the Air Force War College, the U.S. Secret Service, the Library of Congress, NASA's Counterintelligence Division and

colleges and universities around the country. His other work includes *The Hacker Diaries: Confessions of Teenage Hackers*, published in 2002 by McGraw-Hill.

Dan is also the first-place recipient of the 2003 Jesse H. Neal National Business Journalism Award for Best News Coverage for a series of reports on wireless network security threats at some of the nation's largest airlines and airports.

Prior to becoming a journalist, Dan was an intelligence officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served as senior briefing officer for the Second Marine Expeditionary Force and analyst in charge of the Balkans Task Force during the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1994-1996. He is also a former imagery intelligence analyst with the U.S. Army Reserve. Dan has a wide range of military and computer security training, and has been responsible for training and access control of CIA and Pentagon intelligence databases and systems.

As one of the leading technology journalists in the country, Dan traveled around the world in 1999 and 2000 covering the NATO-led war in Kosovo and the use of cyber war tactics by the U.S. military. He has interviewed and written profiles of military cyber-warriors and hackers from around the world, and has traveled with the U.S. Secretary of Defense.

Dan has a B.A. in History and earned a Master's Degree in Journalism from American University in Washington, D.C.