On January 12th Google announced that it had been the victim of a sophisticated attack that originated from China. After further investigation, they discovered that the attack focused on gaining access to the email accounts of several Chinese human rights activists. They also discovered that other activist accounts had been routinely accessed by third parties. In view of this, Google has said that they will take "a new approach to China." The worldwide media has been intensely following the story, and recently the US State Department announced that they would lodge a formal protest with China over the issues raised by Google.

In this seminar, I will give an overview of possible attack methods used by the Chinese government to gain access to these email accounts. For each attack method, I will describe the attack as well as ways that you can protect yourself against it.

Monday, 25 January, 2010
Noon - 01:00 pm
Carnegie Mellon, Room 1064

Dr. Ryan Riley likes to "think like a hacker" and discover ways to break (and later fix) systems, policies, and rules. He is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at Qatar University. He received his PhD from Purdue University (Indiana, USA) in 2009. His current research interests center around computer security, specifically methods of making operating systems more secure. He also dabbles in cloud computing, networking, and wireless security.

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