

[Security](#)

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Twitter's network gets breached again

by [Elinor Mills](#)[Font size](#)[Print](#)[E-mail](#)[Share](#)[Yahoo! Buzz](#)

Twitter has confirmed that someone broke into its network and gained access to 10 accounts, which appear to include Britney Spears and Ashton Kutcher, according to screenshots posted on a [French blog site](#).

"Our initial security reviews and investigations indicate that no account information was altered or removed in any way," Twitter co-founder Biz Stone wrote in a [blog post](#) Thursday afternoon.

"Personal information that may have been viewed on these 10 individual accounts includes email address, mobile phone number (if one was associated with the account), and the list of accounts blocked by that user," the posting said. "Password information was not revealed or altered, nor were personal messages (direct messages) viewed."

Stone did not respond to an e-mail seeking comment.

Someone using the alias "Hacker Croll" claims to have gotten access to a Twitter administrator's Twitter password by guessing the secret question to reset the administrator's password on a Yahoo e-mail account where the Twitter password was located, according to [a post](#) in the Warez Scene forum.

The 13 screenshots posted on the Korben blog and another site include not only what looks like admin pages for the celebrities' accounts, but also a page of blacklisted users and other administrative-type pages.

Sure enough, Twitter employee Jason Goldman [tweeted on Monday](#) that his Yahoo e-mail account had gotten hacked, [IDG News Service discovered](#).

This isn't the first time Twitter's network has been breached. [In January](#), someone hacked into the Twitter internal network and gained access to the Twitter accounts of President Obama, CNN anchor Rick Sanchez, and 31 other high-profile Twitterers. [Wired later revealed](#) that the hacker used an automated password guesser to figure out the Twitter administrator's password, which was "happiness."

The popular microblogging site has had more than its share of security challenges lately. It had to clean up after a series of worms spread quickly and modified user profiles [a few weeks ago](#), as well as fight off an attack that hijacked accounts [in March](#), and battle "clickjacking" attacks [in February](#).

The screenshot shows the Twitter administrator interface for the user 'britneyspears'. The interface includes a search bar, a list of user details, and various administrative tools.

Find A User
Screen Name: Find

Found 1 User

1. Britney Spears / britneyspears / 16409683 / @gmail.com
become, edit, clear cache, rebuild social graph, compare, reset password, ban, spam history

Devices
No devices.

Support Notes [new ticket](#) | [profile](#) | [edit](#)
*01/05/09: changed email address back to original, emailed lauren the new pwd and gave her my personal number in case of problems. -Crystal

Tickets [pending](#) | [open](#)

Alerts

Time	By	Message	About
01/06/2009 00:48	commecat	Password was changed by another user.	
01/05/2009 21:48	commecat	Password was changed by another user.	
01/05/2009 17:30	goldman	Password was changed by another user.	
01/05/2009 16:46	crystal	Password was changed by another user.	

joined Mon Sep 22, 2006 20:47:35

last login IP [reset all](#)

locked out IPs (possibly incomplete) [\(reset all\)](#)

last update Tue Apr 28, 2009 01:00:56 via [TwIPic](#)

@replies friends

language en ([clear](#))

updates 120

update daily limit 1 / 125
since Tue Apr 28, 2009 01:00:56 until Tue Apr 28, 2009 04:00:56

api rate limit 0 / 100
since Tue Apr 28, 2009 01:16:25 until Tue Apr 28, 2009 02:16:25

following 377113 / 1324863.0

follow attempts per day 344 / 1000
since Mon Apr 27, 2009 01:22:41 until Tue Apr 28, 2009 01:22:41

followers 1204250

direct messages daily limit 0 / 250
since Tue Apr 28, 2009 01:16:25 until Wed Apr 29, 2009 01:16:25

favorites daily limit 0 / 1000
since Tue Apr 28, 2009 01:16:25 until Wed Apr 29, 2009 01:16:25

mail bouncing? No (0)

restricted? no ([flag](#))

suspended? no ([flag](#))

deleted? no ([delete & backup](#))

backup? No

blocking 0 users

blocked by 3955 users [fabfarm](#), [KevinDupuy](#), [heymermaid](#), [LotusGlossom](#), [krippi](#), [ita_snowflower](#), [film_girl](#), [grahamgilbert](#), [greggscott](#), [boxburger](#), [J_Waterhouse](#), [jimbergman](#), [ddub74](#), [sc00tll](#), [MoxCloud25](#), [shonewindan](#), [Cinow](#), [SakuraSakura](#)

This screenshot shows what appears to be an administrator view of Britney Spears' Twitter account. This and 12 other screenshots were posted on the Internet by a hacker claiming to have gained access to the

Twitter system by getting a Twitter administrator's password from his Yahoo e-mail account after breaking into that.

(Credit: Korben)



Elinor Mills covers Internet security and privacy. She joined CNET News in 2005 after working as a foreign correspondent for Reuters in Portugal and writing for The Industry Standard, the IDG News Service, and the Associated Press. [E-mail Elinor](#).

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