

Cybersecurity and cyberwar : what everyone needs to know

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Abstrak

Summary:

Dependence on computers has had a transformative effect on human society. Cybernetics is now woven into the core functions of virtually every basic institution, including our oldest ones. War is one such institution, and the digital revolution's impact on it has been profound. The American military is almost completely reliant on high-tech computer systems. Given the Internet's potential for full-spectrum surveillance and information disruption, the marshaling of computer networks represents the next stage of cyberwar. Indeed, it is upon us already. The recent Stuxnet episode, in which Israel fed a malignant computer virus into Iran's nuclear facilities, is one such example. Penetration into U.S. government computer systems by Chinese hackers -- presumably sponsored by the Chinese government -- is another. Together, they point to a new era in the evolution of human conflict. Peter W. Singer and Allan Friedman lay out how the revolution in military cybernetics occurred and explain where it is headed. They explain what cyberspace is before moving on to discussions of how it can be exploited and why it is so hard to defend. Throughout, they discuss the latest developments in military and security technology. Singer and Friedman close with a discussion of how people and governments can protect themselves