

DIGITS

Hackers Luring Victims Using Japan Disaster

By [Michael Hickins](#)

Mar 18, 2011 6:30 pm ET

Security researchers say that hackers are using the unfolding disaster in Japan by appealing to people's sense of altruism — or, in some cases, voyeurism — by sending spam email that contain links laden with malicious code. Some of the links are supposed to be of footage of the earthquake or tsunami, some purport to be from relief organizations, while others claim that recipients have inherited \$12 million from victims in Japan. But people who click on those links activate malicious code that is embedded in their personal computers. According to Satnam Narang, a threat analyst with Internet security firm M86, the code not only turns the infected computer into a drone that can be used by hackers to send more spam in the future, but also tricks people into paying \$49 for fake anti-virus software.



SOURCE: M86 SECURITY Malicious code masquerading as anti-virus software.

TO READ THE FULL STORY

SUBSCRIBE

SIGN IN



POPULAR ON WSJ

Most Popular Videos

1. Why It Feels Like Facebook Is Listening Through Your Mic
2. This Week in Celebrity Homes: Justin Timberlake, Dick Cavett
3. At Long Last, Celine Dion Finds Buyer for Jupiter Island Estate
4. What Picking Up an Apple Tells You About the Future of Robotics
5. Johnny Depp Sells Eclectic L.A. Penthouse



Most Popular Articles

[Podcasts](#)
[Snapchat](#)
[GooglePlay](#)
[AppStore](#)
[Windows10](#)
[Privacy Policy](#)
[Cookie Policy](#)
[Copyright Policy](#)
[Data Policy](#)
[Subscriber Agreement & Terms of Use](#)
[Your Ad Choices](#)
Copyright ©2016 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved.