

# Info-terrorist threat growing

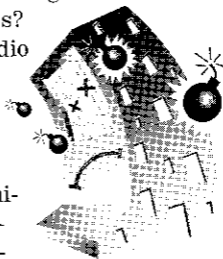
By Gary H. Anthes

MONTREAL

Your company has state-of-the-art information security programs — virus scanners, data encryption and an Internet firewall.

But what are you doing about HERF guns and EMPT bombs?

High Energy Radio Frequency guns and Electromagnetic Pulse Transformer bombs are devices — akin to microwave ovens — designed to aim electromagnetic radiation at a target. They were among the items on a grim list of devices highlighted at the recent National Computer Security Association's "Information Warfare" conference here.



The majority of information systems managers pay scant attention to the threat of electromagnetic weapons. Indeed, the notion that a company's computers or communications systems are at risk from an info-terrorist toting a portable Star Wars device seems far-fetched to many.

But a growing number of information security experts say it is just a matter of time before a disgruntled employee, extortionist or terrorist zaps megawatts of energy into a hapless data center and turns mission-critical information into digital mush.

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