

# Cyber War may not happen

Cyber war, long considered by many experts within the defence establishment to be a significant threat, may never take place according to Dr Thomas Rid from the Department of War Studies.

In a paper published in the *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Dr Rid argues that cyber warfare has never taken place, nor is it currently doing so and it is unlikely to take place in the future.

He said: 'The threat intuitively makes sense: almost everybody has an iPhone, an email address and a Facebook account. We feel vulnerable to cyber attack every day. Cyberwar seems the logical next step.

However, Dr Rid states that to constitute cyber warfare an action must be a potentially lethal, instrumental and political act of force, conducted through the use of software. No single cyber attack has ever been classed as such and no act alone has ever constituted an act of war.

'Politically motivated cyber attacks are simply a more sophisticated version of activities that have always occurred within warfare: sabotage, espionage and subversion,' he concludes.



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