

# Cry for Help

Computer Tips & Tricks for the novice to the advanced.

## **Sony Hacked?**

What does this mean, and how does it affect me?

In the news recently there has been the story of a security breach on the Sony PlayStation Network servers. What this means is that the players' who's personal details and credit card information was being held on these servers, may have had their details stolen by someone outside Sony.

And not just a few, this potentially affects millions of users who have signed up to use the PlayStation Network.

This is a cold reminder that personal details cannot be guaranteed as perfectly secure when held by other people, no matter where or how it is stored, and especially over the internet. So I'm not specifically pointing the finger only at Sony, because a similar situation could have happened at any number of other institutions. And it's not just your credit card details, your identity and date of birth are also valuable data.

As a participant in these online service offerings, it is ultimately your responsibility to minimise your risk. A couple of things you should do are:

Firstly, you need to check your credit card statements, so that when an unauthorised transaction happens – you will identify it.

Secondly, don't use a credit card with \$50,000 available credit limit. It is much better to get a special credit card – with a low limit and reserve its use for purchases over the internet.

Be alert – not alarmed!

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