China National Petroleum hit by global cyberattack

More than 20,000 gas stations in China went offline after a global ransomware attack hit China National Petroleum Corporation's (CNPC) computer system last Friday, reports South China Morning Post.

The damage prevented customers from paying by credit card or online methods such as Ali Pay.

About 18,000 IP addresses in China have been confirmed as infected with the "WannaCry" ransomware, reports Xinhua News Agency citing the National Computer Network Emergency Response Technical Team/Coordination Center.

The ransomware "WannaCry", a malicious software that locks a device and demands a ransom to be paid by bitcoins to unlock the device, has also spread to more than 100 countries.

United Kingdom's National Health Service, Spanish telecommunications company Telefonica, Germany's railway company Deutsche Bahn, Nissan, and the Russian Central Bank were among the institutions targeted by the cybersecurity threat.

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