Cybersecurity

Sagar Meghani:
In everyday life, from air travel, accessing money, keeping the lights on, to online shopping: computers are tied together like never before. But how secure is the nation's cyberspace?

James Lewis:
I don't know. It's either bad or very bad. Uh, those are our options.

Sagar Meghani:
The president says Americans know the problems, and they've been ignored too long.

Barack Obama:
We've had to learn a whole new vocabulary just to stay ahead of the cybercriminals who would do us harm: "spyware" and "malware" and "spoofing" and "phishing" and "botnets"…

Sagar Meghani:
And he says it's time to make sure the country that invented the Internet is secure in cyberspace.

Barack Obama:
From now on, our digital infrastructure, the networks and computers we depend on every day, will be treated as they should be: as a strategic national asset.

Sagar Meghani:
The government and the military say their systems are probed millions of times every day. The intelligence community's former chief information officer says the problem goes well beyond that.

Dale Meyerrose:
Cyberspace, cybersecurity is not the sole purview of national defense, national security. It's a matter of national economy, and it affects every person.

Sagar Meghani:
The president's putting a premium on training a cyber-savvy workforce to keep up with technology, and working with the private sector to better protect their networks. He'll also name a cybercoordinator as part of a broad plan to transform the nation's digital security. But critics warn that "cyberczar" won't have the necessary authority to oversee wholesale changes. The president insists the czar will have regular access to him. But there are fears the bureaucratic maze will make it tough to bring about any big change.

Sagar Meghani:
Sagar Meghani, The Associated Press, the White House.