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## TECHNOLOGY

# CYBERSECURITY DEMAND RISES

The recent Code Orange alert motivated some information technology departments to assess the state of their cybersecurity. Apparently some found it lacking, because local network security firms have been getting a lot of calls.

Several companies that provide cybersecurity services, including network monitoring, have seen their calls from customers — old and new — spike in recent weeks. Security experts say the jump in concern is most likely a combination of the heightened tensions about potential terrorist attacks and the threat of an upcoming war, which many fear could play out in cyberspace as well as more traditional battlegrounds.

Tom Ewing, vice president and general manager at **Compuquip Technologies**, Miami, reported his company's workload has jumped almost 25 percent in recent weeks. He said customer requests have come in three areas: additional onsite support to replace critical security people called up to reserve duty, testing disaster recovery and backup plans, and accelerating security upgrade plans that had been put on hold.

During the Code Orange period, Ewing said the major threats to guard against are not viruses, but denial-of-service attacks that could try to shut down the domain name server system that runs the Internet. Hackers take over unprotected computers in these kinds of attacks and use them to flood a Web site with traffic.

"Customers have to make sure their own computers are not vulnerable to being taken over and utilized as part of a denial-of-service attack," he added.



**CHRISTINE WINTER**

TECHNOLOGY

Christopher Day, chief technology officer at **Asgard Group**, said his company is reviewing business continuity and disaster recovery plans with its customers.

"We are working with some of our larger customers to help them actually test certain components of their plans," he said, adding there may be kinks to work out because of changes in infrastructure, business processes or personnel since earlier drills.