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CHARLIE SORREL 03.01.10 05:37 AM

PlayStation Network Problems Cause PS3 Meltdown (Updated)

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PLAYSTATION®Network

Sony's PlayStation Network (PSN) went into meltdown this weekend, logging users out of the service and preventing them from playing online games. That alone would be inconvenient, but users, including our own Brian X. Chen, are reporting that previously downloaded games – including *Heavy Rain* – cannot be played offline, and that trophies won in games have disappeared from the console.

Sony is aware of the problem, posting updates on both its PS3 blog and Twitter stream. Oddly, the issue is confined to the original big PS3s: The PS3 Slim remains unaffected by the problem.

Although Sony says it will have a fix by this morning, it has not yet said what went wrong. Anecdotal evidence points to a combination of DRM and firmware issues rather than a network outage. Affected units have their system date set to Dec. 31, 1999 (something impossible to do manually, according to PS3 News) or Jan. 1, 2000, and the consoles are only able to play non-protected games.

This, combined with errors such as the following:

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use their PS3 normally.

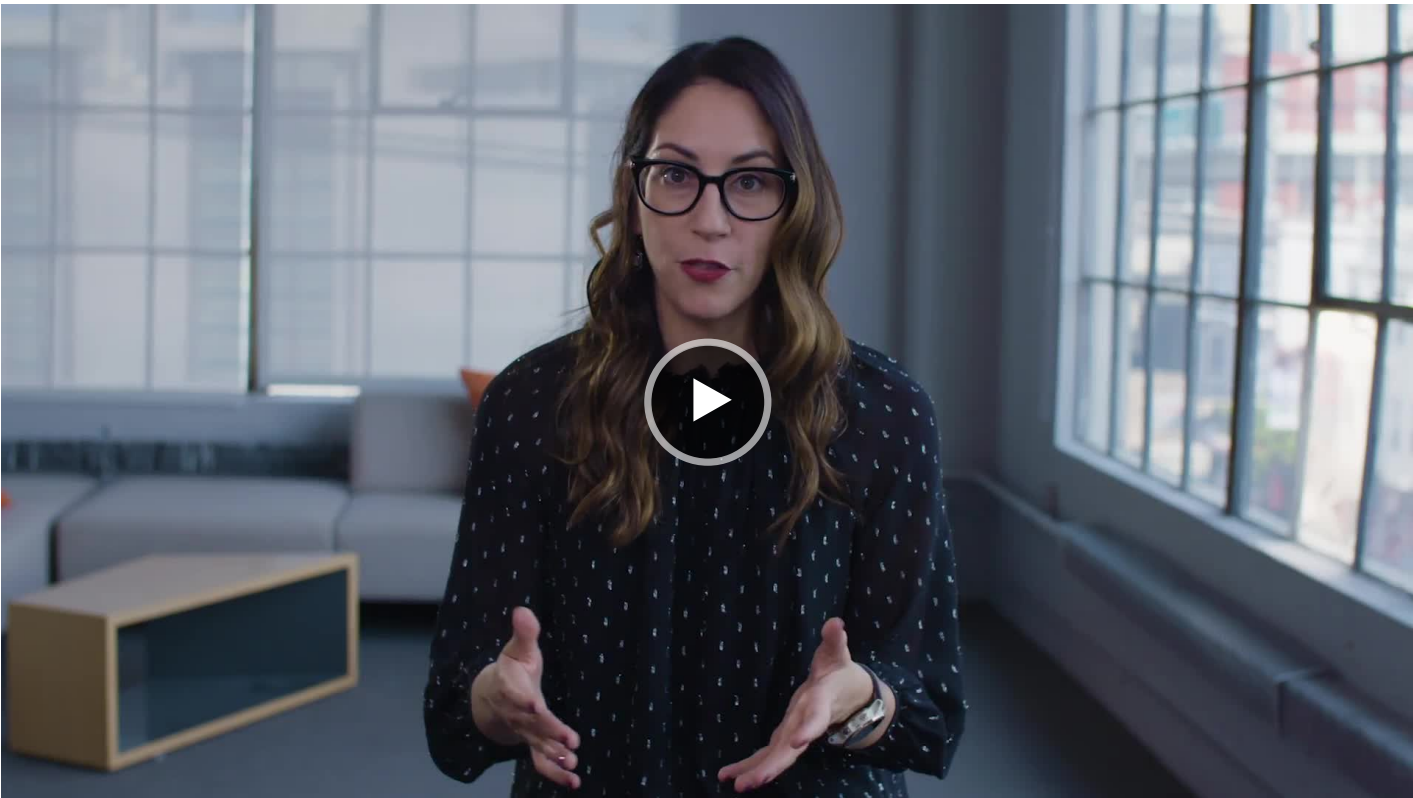
Update:Sony has posted an update, explaining that "this problem is being caused by a bug in the clock functionality incorporated in the system." The company said it is hoping to resolve the issue in the next 24 hours. Sony advises owners of the non-slim PS3 to avoid using their systems until the bug is fixed.

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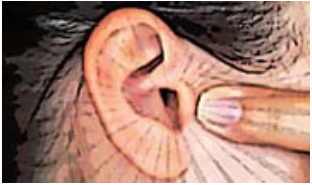
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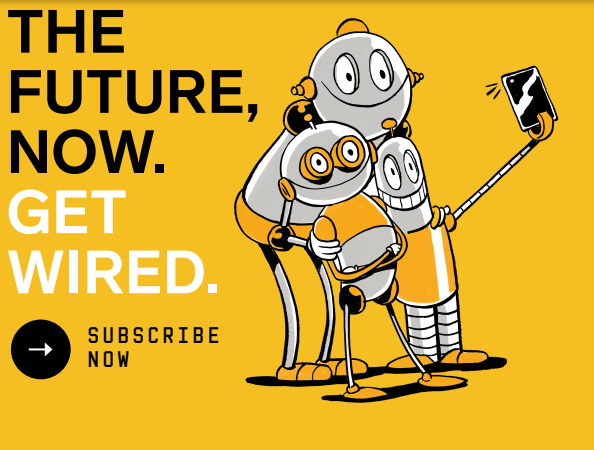
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