Photo: Unsplash

DP World resumes Australia port operations after crippling cyberattack

Marcus Hand | Nov 13, 2023

DP World is restarting operations at its terminals in Australia on Monday after a cyberattack crippled landside operations leaving over 30,000 containers stranded in yards.

DP World 's operations at four of the largest ports in Australia – in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Fremantle were crippled on Friday by hackers forcing the Dubai-headquartered terminal operator to close the terminals.

According to local reports the attack hit systems that allow trucks to share data with the terminal operator meaning that while vessel operations could still be performed

trucks could not enter or exit the facilities leaving over 30,000 containers stranded on the dock.

Related: Shipping industry expects cyber-attack deaths, collisions, and groundings

In statement DP World Australia said that operations had resumed at its ports across Australia at 9am (AEDT) after successful tests on key systems overnight.

The terminal operator said it expected around 5,000 container would move out of the four port facilities today, however, this does not mean a return to normal operations with a substantial volume of containers to be cleared and the ongoing response to the incident expected to cause further disruption.

Related: DNV ransomware attack 'concerning': Cyber Threat Analyst

"The ongoing investigation and response to protect networks and systems may cause some necessary, temporary disruptions to their services in the coming days. This is a part of an investigation process and resuming normal logistical operations at this scale," DP World Australia said.

Cyberattacks have become a major concern for key infrastructure such as ports and July this year a ransomware incident at the Port of Nagoya in Japan brought its terminals to a grinding halt for two days. The attack crippled the port's ability to load and unload containers

Source URL:https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/ports/dp-world-resumes-australia-port-operations-after-crippling-cyberattack