



INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

# Countdown to Zero Day

## Stuxnet and the Launch of the World's First Digital Weapon

With Author & Journalist Kim Zetter

Presented by the *Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS)* and  
*The George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs*

**Monday, April 27, 2015 | 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

The George Washington University, Elliott School of International Affairs, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 602  
1957 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20052

The Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS) and the George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs invite you to an event titled "Countdown to Zero Day: Stuxnet and the Launch of the World's First Digital Weapon," with Kim Zetter, an award-winning journalist for Wired, who has been covering cybersecurity for more than a decade.

In January 2010, inspectors with the International Atomic Energy Agency noticed that centrifuges at an Iranian uranium enrichment plant were failing at an unprecedented rate. The cause was a complete mystery. Six months later, a computer security firm in Belarus stumbled upon a virus infecting computers in Iran. It took four months of analysis, but eventually researchers realized they had discovered the world's first digital weapon. Stuxnet, the weapon, was unlike any other virus or worm built before. Rather than simply hijacking targeted computers or stealing information from them, it escaped the digital realm to wreak physical destruction on equipment controlled by computers -- in this case, centrifuges at a nuclear facility in Iran that were being used to enrich uranium.

At this event, Zetter will tell the story behind the cyber virus that sabotaged Iran's nuclear efforts and explain how its existence has ushered in a new age of warfare.

Kim Zetter is an award-winning investigative journalist and author who covers cybersecurity, cybercrime, cyber warfare, privacy, and civil liberties. She has been covering computer security and the hacking underground since 1999, first for PC World magazine, and then for WIRED, where she has been reporting since 2003 and is currently a senior staff writer. She has broken numerous stories over the years and has three times been voted one of the top 10 security reporters in the nation by her journalism peers and security industry professionals. In 2011, she wrote an extensive feature about Stuxnet. She recently completed the book *Countdown to Zero Day: Stuxnet and the Launch of the World's First Digital Weapon* published by Crown/Random House in November 2014. The book will be available for purchase at this event.

Please RSVP [here](#) by Friday April 24, 2015.