

# Hello Kitty owner Sanrio says fan-site security leak is fixed

By Kelvin Chan  
AP Business Writer

**H**ONG KONG — The Japanese company that owns the Hello Kitty brand says it has fixed a security leak in an online fan site for the character that compromised the personal information of 3.3 million users.

Sanrio Co.'s digital arm said it "corrected" a security vulnerability on the SanrioTown.com website and was investigating. The leak was discovered by a security researcher.

Hong-Kong-based Sanrio Digital said anyone who knew the internet addresses of "specific vulnerable servers" could have accessed personal information such as names and birthdates. Passwords were also available but encrypted.

However, it added that the data did not include credit card or other payment details, and that no information was stolen.

"We investigated the problem and applied fixes, including securing the servers identified as vulnerable" by the researcher, the company said in a security advisory posted on the site.

The security researcher who identified the problem, Chris Vickery, disputed Sanrio's claim that information was not accessed, since he used multiple IP addresses himself to access data and confirm the vulnerability. He also believes Sanrio would have discovered the problem easily had it paid attention to its security practices.

SanrioTown.com is an online community for Hello Kitty enthusiasts around the world operated by Sanrio Digital. The site lets users play games, watch videos, and keep up with news on their favorite cute character.

The site's members include 186,261 minors, said Mark Leeper, whose public-relations firm is representing Sanrio Digital.

It's the second internet security breach in the past month involving a large amount of children's data.

Kids' technology maker VTech reported a data breach that exposed the personal information of 6.4 million children around the world as well as 4.9 million parent



**SECURITY BREACH.** A visitor poses with a Hello Kitty display while having a souvenir picture taken during an exhibit of Hello Kitty and related items, including interactive games, in Taipei, Taiwan, in this file photo. The Japanese company that owns the Hello Kitty brand says it has fixed a security leak in an online fan site for the character that compromised the personal information of 3.3 million users. (AP Photo/Chiang Ying-ying)

accounts to which they were connected. British police have arrested one man on hacking-related charges in that case.

Sanrio Digital is a joint venture between Hong Kong game developer Typhoon Games, which has a 70 percent stake, and Sanrio, which owns the rest.

# Door panel saves man buried 67 hours in China landslide

By Louise Watt  
The Associated Press

**B**EIJING — Squeezed into a narrow room under piles of debris for 67 hours, a young man was saved by a door that trapped his foot but gave him space to survive. Rescuers pulled him from the massive mudslide that hit part of a major manufacturing city in southern China.

In a feeble voice, migrant worker Tian Zeming, 21, told rescuers his name and that another person was buried near him, according to authorities. But medical and rescue staff who went down into the rubble found the second person had not survived.

One person was killed and 75 people are missing and presumed dead after a mountain of construction-waste material and mud collapsed and flowed into an industrial park in Shenzhen. The city near Hong Kong makes products ranging from cellphones to cars that are sold around the world and attracts workers from all parts of China.

State broadcaster CCTV reported that Tian underwent surgery for a broken hand and on his foot, which had been wedged against the door panel. It said he had been trying to get out of his room when the building collapsed, and the door panel created a space for him to survive.

Hospital boss Wang Guangming said Tian was in stable condition, but was initially extremely weak and dehydrated, and had several soft-tissue injuries and multiple fractures, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

Xinhua reported that rescuers located Tian underground at 3:30am and pulled him out of the collapsed factory building three hours later. Firefighters had to squeeze into the room and remove most of the debris by hand to get to Tian, who is from Chongqing city in southwestern China.

Residents have raised questions about why officials didn't act to stop the growing mountain of construction waste, which they said they feared was dangerous.

The Ministry of Land and Resources said the steep mountain of dirt, cement chunks, and other waste had been piling up for two years.

Heavy rains made the soil heavy and unstable, causing the pile to collapse with massive force.

State media reported that the New Guangming District



**DISASTROUS DUMPSITE.** A survivor is found last month at the site of a landslide at an industrial park in Shenzhen, in south China's Guangdong province. Rescuers pulled a man out alive after he was buried for 67 hours in the rubble. In the bottom photo, rescuers are seen conducting searches for potential survivors at the landslide site.

government identified problems with the mountain of soil months earlier.

The Legal Evening News said a district government report in January found that the dump had received one million cubic meters of waste and warned of a "catastrophe."

In a rare move, Shenzhen's top officials, including the city's Communist Party chief and its mayor, bowed deeply at a news conference in late December to apologize.

Despite the threat of prison time over major industrial accidents, a lack of regulatory oversight and cost-cutting by management often lead to deadly disasters.

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