Mystery of North Korean internet outage

Internet services are gradually being restored in North Korea after an unprecedented outage that lasted over nine hours, which occurred in the wake of a cyber security row with the United States

ENCLOSED INTERNET

■ North Korea has very limited access to global internet but does have its own *intranet* (internal internet), hosting state-controlled news and cookery website

Korean Central News Agency website promotes propaganda such as:

"U.S. urged to honestly apologise to mankind for its evil doing before groundlessly pulling up others"

Limited connections to outside world – reserved for elite, military and propaganda machine – handled by state-run ISP *Star Joint Ventures*, which in turn is routed through *China Unicom*

CHINA

China unicom 中国联通

NORTH KOREA

Single border connection vulnerable to overload of routing infrastructure

● P'yongyang

100km
60 miles

DISPUTE TIMELINE

■ **Nov 24:** Sony Pictures hacked by Guardians of Peace (GOP), who in following days leak private emails, sensitive data and unreleased movies online

■ **Dec 1:** FBI investigates whether North Korea may be linked to attack because of Sony's upcoming comedy *The Interview*, about assassination attempt on Kim Jong Un

■ **Dec 3:** North Korean diplomat denies country involved in Sony hack

■ **Dec 7:** State-run news agency calls hacking "righteous deed" but again denies involvement

■ **Dec 11:** Photographers invited to Los Angeles premiere of The Interview but no broadcast or print reporters

■ **Dec 16:** GOP posts message threatening 9/11-type attacks on theatres that screen The Interview. Number of cinema chains withdraw movie. East coast premiere cancelled

■ **Dec 17:** U.S. official accuses North Korea of Sony hack. Sony cancels plans to release movie

■ **Dec 18:** U.S. says it is considering "proportional response" to cyber attack

■ **Dec 19:** FBI confirms North Korea is behind Sony hack

■ **Dec 22:** North Korean internet goes offline for over nine hours