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ALERT

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Apple Text Bomb can Crash iPhones with a Single Message

A bug that can cripple an iPhone with a single text message has been discovered. The so-called "text bomb" can crash, or re-start, a device upon receiving a text message containing a link to malicious code - and the victim does not even need to click to be affected. The bug also slows Safari browser used to surf the internet on Macs and drain battery levels. Security researcher Abraham Masri, who shared the bug on Twitter on Wednesday evening, said he has reported it to Apple. Masri published the malicious code on GitHub. Text messages with a link to that webpage will cause phones to crash. After sharing this online, Mr Masri decided to delete the code after hundreds began retweeting it and discussing plans to spread it. The bug, dubbed ChaiOS, should not affect any other phones unless someone has saved the code and re- uploads it at a later date.

This glitch is the latest embarrassment for the tech giant. Last week a Mac password flaw - the third discovery of its kind in recent months - allowed anyone to change device preferences in the AppStore. Apple was also forced to issue a fix for a separate password bug that allowed anyone access to a Mac by typing the username "root", late last year. In 2015, an iMessage bug caused phones to crash if they received a text with the words "effective. Power," followed by a number of illegible characters. A year later, another "iPhone killer" was on the loose, this

time in the form of a short mp4 clip that showed a woman standing by a bed with the word "honey" written on the screen. After receiving the clip, users's phone performance slowed, eventually shutting down entirely. Concerns over the bug escalated to the National Cyber Security Centre, an arm of GCHQ.