



Dr Cameron Jones uses CD drives to detect dangerous chemicals.

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Terror hoaxes exposed

BIOLOGICAL terrorism hoaxes could be exposed using your home computer, thanks to a breakthrough by researchers at Swinburne University's Hawthorn campus.

Chancellery research fellow Dr Cameron Jones is using computer drives to detect whether or not suspicious substances contain

dangerous chemical or biological elements.

Dr Jones, who has been researching the topic for five years, said the technology could prevent hoax attacks where talcum powder, baking soda or flour was passed off as something more sinister such as anthrax.

It could identify whether

the terror threat was genuine within one minute.

The detection system analyses how substances respond to electronic magnetic radiation in the computer drive.

Dr Jones said \$100 CD drives were as accurate in conducting the tests as \$100,000 pharmaceutical testing devices.