# State sponsored offensive cyber-attacks

### **Stephen McCombie**





### **About Me**

- Over 20 years working in cyber security
- Worked in law enforcement, academia and industry
- PhD in Computer Science Thesis examined Russian and Ukrainian cybercrime groups that targeted Australian Banks in early 2000s
- Research interests include maritime cyber threats, cyber threat intelligence, state sponsored offensive cyber and information warfare











What is their interest in you?

What do you think their capabilities are?

Who are your Cyber Adversaries

What is their most likely **course** of action against you?

How do you focus your efforts and future investment to counter this?

# State sponsored offensive cyber-attacks

- Hydrid warfare (seen in war in Ukraine)
- Achieve same aims by many means (cyber just one)
- Cyber is a new domain of warfare (Land/Sea/Air/Space)
- But Cyber seems somehow short of war on its own
- Russian/China not alone in using its offensive capabiltiy
- New "cold war" will feature these types of cyber attacks



(Source: Galeotti 2018)

## Russia: Legacy of KGB

- The current State Security apparatus of Russia is in many ways the descendant of the Soviet Unions' KGB.
- Indeed its style of operation and even some of its personnel have not changed
- Russia's "secret police" have a long history dating back to the large and surprisingly effective Tsarist Okhrana.



# KGB Active Measures (The Mitrokhin Archive)

- The KGB sought to influence the course of world events by a variety of 'active measures' (aktivinyye meropriatia) ranging from media manipulation to 'special actions' involving various degrees of violence.
- Throughout the Cold War the United States was the main target for KGB active measures as well as for intelligence collection. Most were at the non-violent end of the active measures spectrum 'influence operations' designed to discredit the Main Adversary.



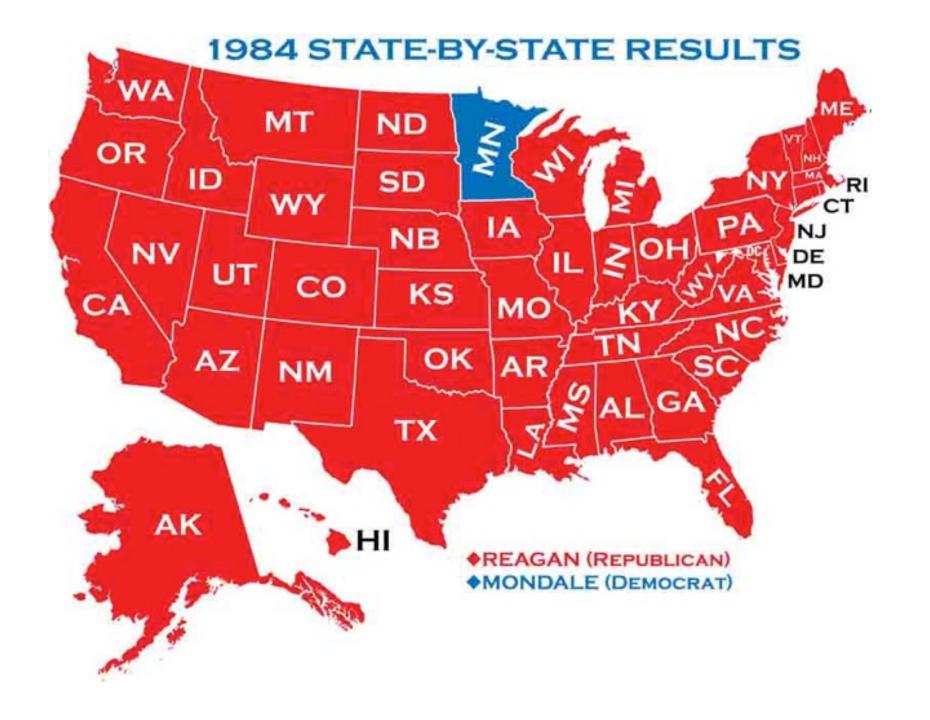
NCH POLICE OFFICERS STABBED IN THE PARIS SUBURB OF MAGNANVILLE BY NAS V 4.89



# KGB Operations against US Elections 1984 (The Mitrokhin Archive)

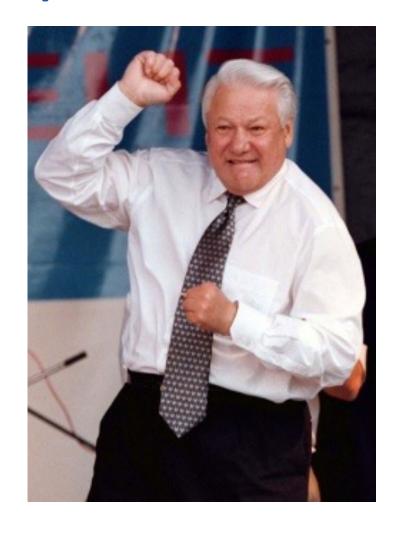
- On 25 February 1983 the Centre (KGB Headquarters) instructed its three American residencies to begin planning active measures to ensure Reagan's defeat in the presidential election of November 1984
- The Centre made clear that any candidate, of either party, would be preferable to Reagan.
- Active measures 'theses' in domestic policy included Reagan's alleged discrimination against ethnic minorities; corruption in his administration; and Reagan's subservience to the military-industrial complex



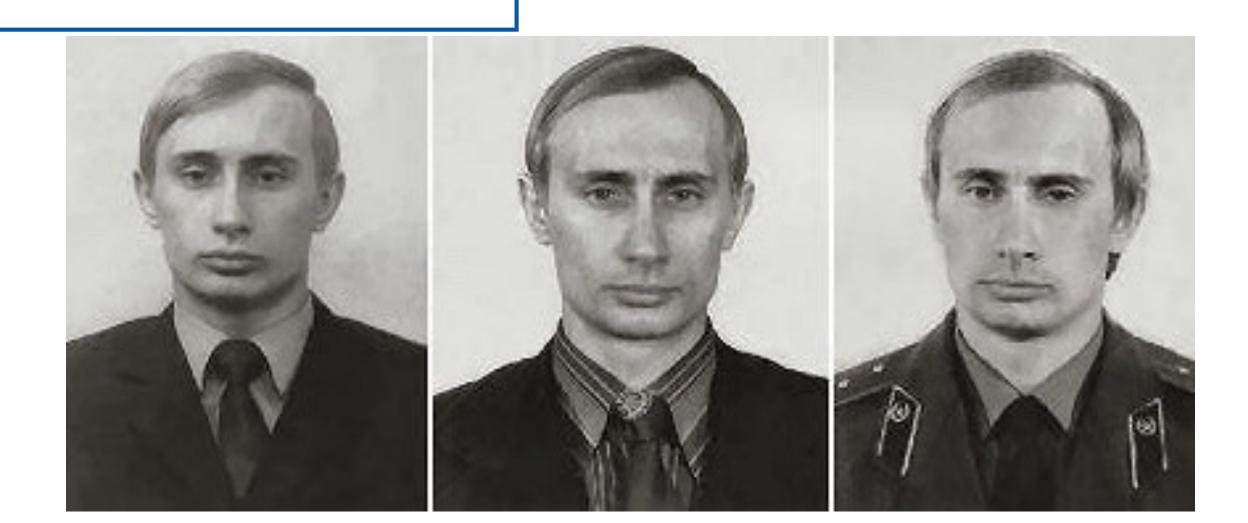


## KGB Dissolved 1991 (Galeotti 2017)

- In one of his many toxic legacies, former Russian
   President Boris Yeltsin ignored calls to disband the
   KGB that appeared beyond repair and rebuild it from
   scratch.
- Instead, after 1991, he opted to partition the KGB. Its first chief directorate, responsible for espionage, was simply rebranded as the Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR).
- Most of the directorates tasked with domestic security were gathered together first under the umbrella of the Ministry of Security, then the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service, and, in 1995, the FSB.

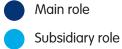


# **KGB Alumni**

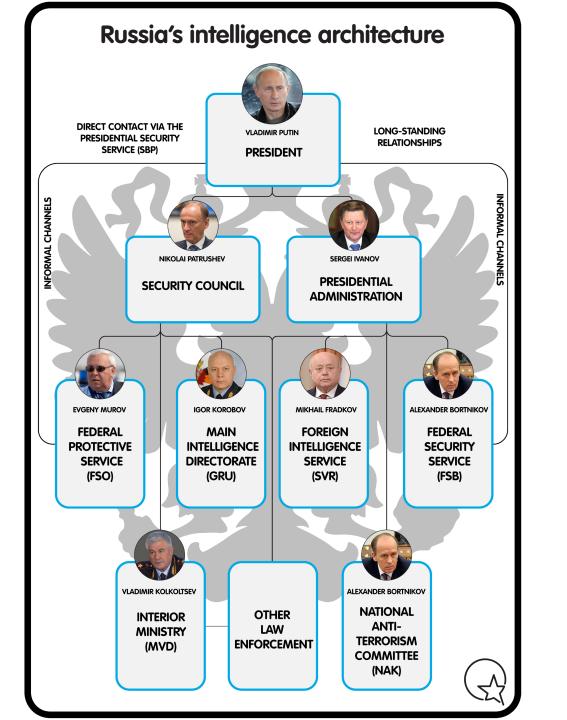


### Roles of Russia's intelligence community

	Political intelligence	Economic intelligence	Military intelligence	Active measures	Counter -intelligence	Political security	Law enforcement
Federal Security Service (FSB)			,				
Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR)							
Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU)							
Federal Protection Service (FSO)							
Interior Ministry (MVD)							
Prosecutor General's Office (GP)							
Investigatory Committee (SK)							
The Federal Anti-Drug Service (FSKN)							
National Anti-Terrorism Committee (NAK)							
Soviet KGB							



(Source: Galeotti 2018)



(Source: Galeotti 2018)

## **Federal Security Service (FSB)**

- The FSB are the best known and most politically influential of Russia's Security organisations
- Its role is the protection and defence of the state border of the Russian Federation, the protection of internal sea waters, the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone, the continental shelf and their natural resources and ensuring the information security of Russia



## **Information Security Center (TsIB)**

- Information Security Center (TsIB)
   manages computer security
   investigations for the Interior Ministry
   and the FSB. Its also known as Military
   Unit (Vch) 64829.
- TsIB has close links with Russia's two main cybersecurity companies, Kaspersky and Group-IB (Galeotti 2016).



### **FSB Liaison in Action**



# DMITRY ALEKSANDROVICH DOKUCHAEV

Conspiring to Commit Computer Fraud and Abuse; Accessing a Computer Without Authorization for the Purpose of Commercial Advantage and Private Financial Gain; Damaging a Computer Through the Transmission of Code and Commands; Economic Espionage; Theft of Trade Secrets; Access Device Fraud; Aggravated Identity Theft; Wire Fraud



DESCRIPTION

Aliases: Dmitriy Aleksandrovich Dokuchayev, "Patrick Nag"	
Date(s) of Birth Used: February 28, 1984	Place of Birth: Russia
Hair: Brown	Eyes: Blue
Sex: Male	Race: White
Occupation: Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) Officer	Nationality: Russian
NCIC: W070500897	

#### REMARKS

Dokuchaev is alleged to be an officer of the Russian FSB, assigned to FSB Center 18. He has Russian Citizenship and was last known to be in Moscow. Russia.

#### CAUTION

From at least January of 2014, continuing through December of 2016, Dmitry Aleksandrovich Dokuchaev is alleged to have conspired with, among others, known and unknown FSB officers, including Igor Sushchin, to protect, direct, facilitate, and pay criminal hackers, including Alexsey Belan. Dokuchaev and his conspirators allegedly agreed to, and did, gain unauthorized access to the computer networks of and user accounts hosted at major companies providing worldwide webmail and internet-related services in the Northern District of California and elsewhere.

A federal arrest warrant for warrant for Dmitry Aleksandrovich Dokuchaev was issued on February 28, 2017, by the United States District Court, Northern District of California, San Francisco, California. That warrant wator do nan indictment charging him with conspiring to commit computer fraud and abuse; accessing a computer without authorization for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain; damaging a computer through the transmission of code and commands; economic espionage; theft of trade secrets; access device frauci, aggravated identity theft; and wire frauci.



# IGOR ANATOLYEVICH SUSHCHIN

Conspiring to Commit Computer Fraud and Abuse; Accessing a Computer Without Authorization for the Purpose of Commercial Advantage and Private Financial Gain; Damaging a Computer Through the Transmission of Code and Commands; Economic Espionage; Theft of Trade Secrets; Access Device Fraud; Wire Fraud



DESCRIPTION

Aliases: Igor Suchin, Igor Suschin			
Date(s) of Birth Used: August 28, 1973	Place of Birth: Moscow, Russia		
Hair: Blond	Eyes: Blue		
Sex: Male	Race: White		
Nationality: Russian	NCIC: W800495348		

#### REMARKS

Sushchin has Russian citizenship and is known to hold a Russian passport. Sushchin is alleged to be a Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) Officer of unknown rank. In addition to working for the FSB, he is alleged to have served as Head of Information Security for a Russian company, providing information about employees of that company to the FSB. He was last known to be in Moscow, Russia.

#### CAUTION

From at least January of 2014, continuing through December of 2016, Igor Anatolyevich Sushchin is alleged to have conspired with, among others, known and unknown FSB officers, including Dmitry Aleksandrovich Dokuchaev, to protect, direct, facilitate, and pay criminal hackers, including Alexsey Belan. Sushchin and his conspirators agreed to, and did, gain unauthorized access to the computer networks of and user accounts hosted at major companies providing worldwide webmail and internet-related services in the Northern District of California and elsewhere

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#### SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT RISK

If you have any information concerning this person, please contact your local FBI office or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.

# Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU)

- The GRU is Russia's foreign military intelligence organisation.
- It is part of the Russian Military somewhat similar to the US Defence Intelligence Agency.
- It deploys six times more agents than the SVR
- It has significant technical expertise in information warfare
- They are believed to been the main perpetrators of the DNC hack



### **GRU Alumni**







near Khoroshevskiy — Moscow





#### Sergei Skripal

# Novichok used in spy poisoning, chemical weapons watchdog confirms

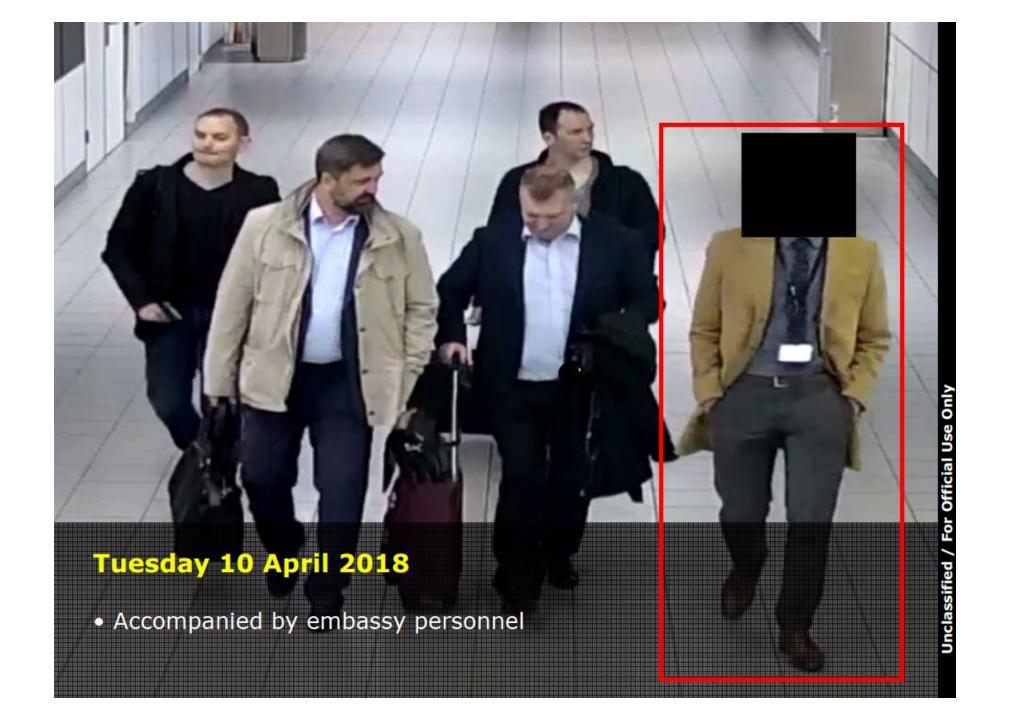
OPCW says analysis of samples confirms UK findings about nerve agent used in Salisbury attack



▲ A tent is secured over the bench in Salisbury where Sergei and Yulia Skripal were found critically ill. Photograph: Andrew Matthews/PA

#### Patrick Wintour Diplomatic editor

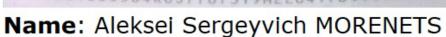
Fri 13 Apr 2018 01.16 AEST





### Aleksei MORENETS





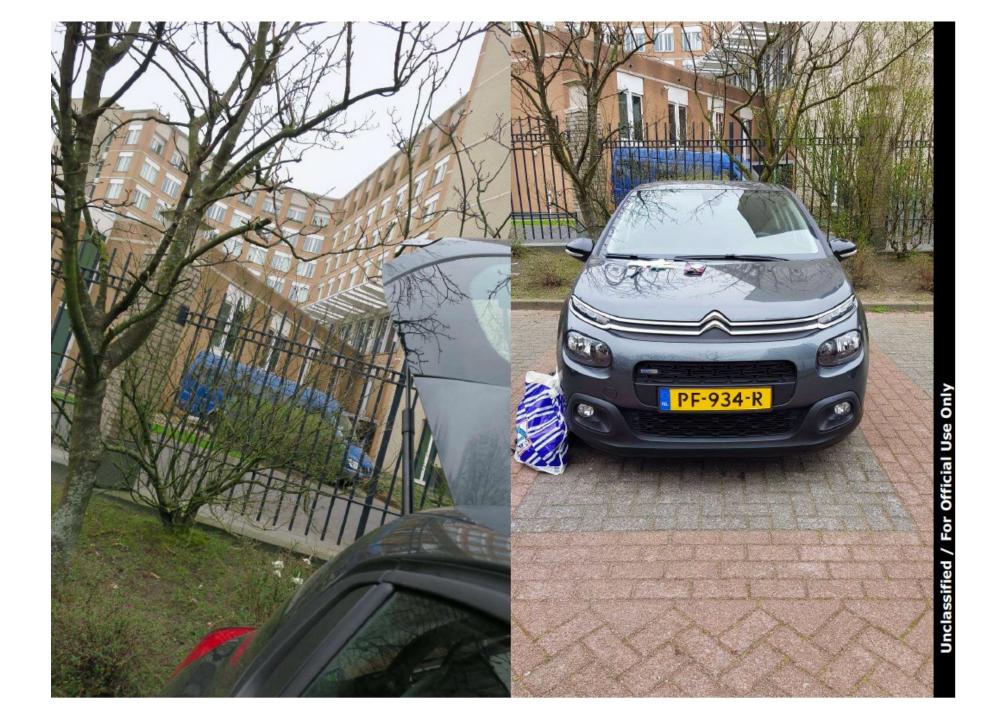
**Date of birth:** 31-07-1977

Place of birth: Moermanskaya Oblast

**Passport nr:** 100135556

Role: Cyber operator

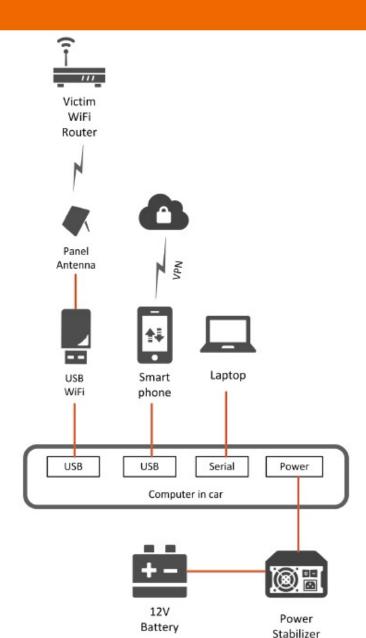




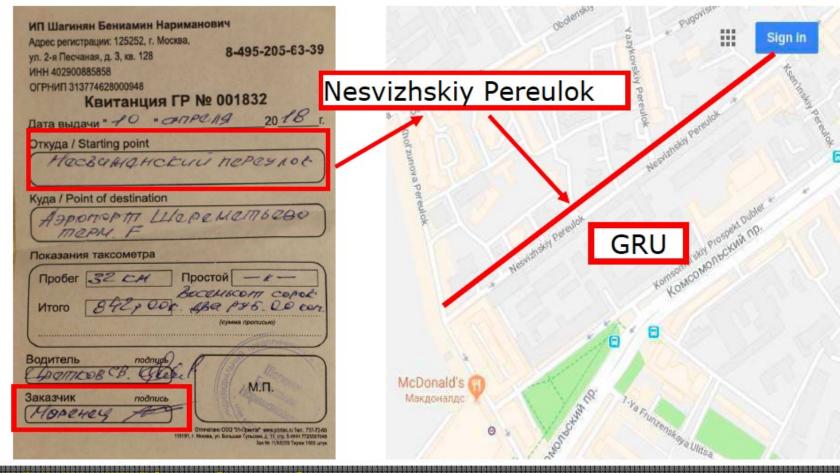


### Schematische weergave









### MORENETS Taxi receipt

- From Nesvizhskiy Pereulok to Moscow Sheremetyevo airport
- Date: 10 April 2018

# Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation (SVR)

- SVR are officially responsible for foreign intelligence operations it was formed from the 1<sup>st</sup> Directorate of the KGB which had been responsible for espionage
- The illegals made famous by the "Americans" were agents of SVR
- In 2010 the FBI arrested 10 agents of the SVR in the US. They were later released in a prisoner exchange with Russia.

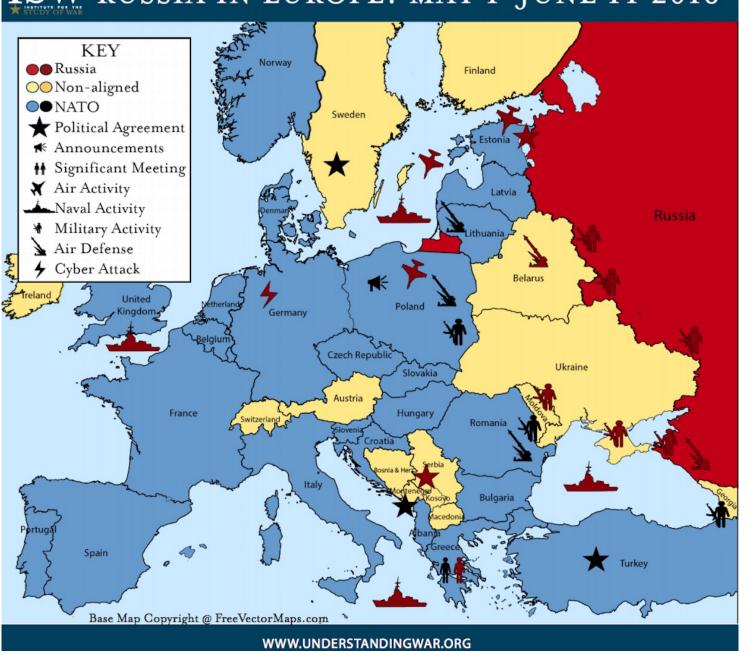


### Competition and the rise of the FSB (Galeotti 2017)

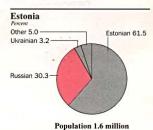
- These intelligence agencies rather then stick to their briefs compete for Putin's attention.
- In Ukraine, for example, the SVR, FSB, and GRU, all ran competing operations.
- Since 2000 the FSB's stature has risen while that of its competitors in Russian intelligence was falling.
- By the late 2000s, the GRU was in disgrace, due to its blunders in Russia's 2008 war with Georgia, leading to abandoned airfields being bombed and Russian units getting outflanked.
- Putin also felt the SVR was too conservative and timid for limiting itself to simple information-gathering.

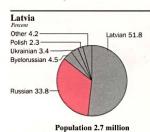


### ISW RUSSIA IN EUROPE: MAY 1-JUNE 14 2016

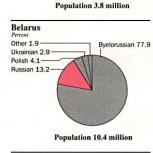


### **Ethnic Russians** in the Newly Independent States

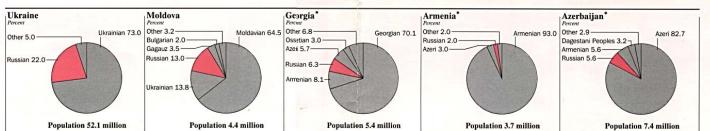


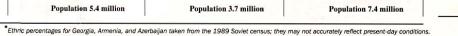


Lithuania Other 3.6 Lithuanian 80.1 Polish 7.7



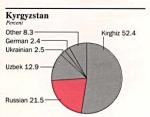




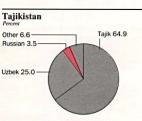




Population 16.9 million



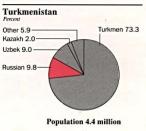
Population 4.5 million



Population 5.7 million



Population 22.2 million





### Major Cyber Incidents in Eastern Europe

- Estonia 2007 Large DDoS
- Georgia 2008 Web defacement, suspected SCADA attacks
- Ukraine 2015 IT/SCADA
- Ukraine 2016 SCADA
- Ukraine 2017 Destructive
- Ukraine 2022 Dest/Infra/Satellite



### Other Cyber Actions attributed to Russia

- Yahoo 2014-2016
- DNC hacks 2015-2016
- Other US Election Activity 2016
- Shadowbrokers 2016-2017
- French Election 2017
- Tainted Leaks 2017
- US Elections 2018/2020
- COVID Disinformation 2020
- Solarwinds 2021







CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT AN OFFENSE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES; FALSE REGISTRATION OF A DOMAIN NAME; AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT; CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MONEY LAUNDERING

#### **RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE IN 2016 U.S. ELECTIONS**



Boris Alekseyevich



Dmitriy Sergeyevich



Anatoliy Sergeyevich Kovalev



Nikolay Yuryevich Kozachek



Aleksey Viktorovich Lukashev



Artem Andreyevich



Sergey Aleksandrovich Morgachev



Aleksandr Vladimirovich Osadchuk



Aleksey Aleksandrovich Potemkin



Ivan Sergeyevich Yermakov



Pavel Vyacheslavovich Yershov

#### **DETAILS**

On July 13, 2018, a federal grand jury sitting in the District of Columbia returned an indictment against 12 Russian military intelligence officers for their alleged roles in interfering with the 2016 United States (U.S.) elections. The indictment charges 11 defendants, Boris Alekseyevich Antonov, Dmitriy Sergeyevich Badin, Nikolay Yuryevich Kozachek, Aleksey Viktorovich Lukashev, Artem Andreyevich Malyshev, Sergey Aleksandrovich Morgachev, Aleksandr Vladimirovich Osadchuk, Aleksey Aleksandrovich Potemkin, Ivan Sergeyevich Yermakov, Pavel Vyacheslavovich Yershov, and Viktor Borisovich Netyksho, with a computer hacking conspiracy involving gaining unauthorized access into the computers of U.S. persons and entities involved in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, stealing documents from those computers, and staging releases of the stolen documents to interfere with the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The indictment also charges these defendants with aggravated identity theft, false registration of a domain name, and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Two defendants, Aleksandr Vladimirovich Osadchuk and Anatoliy Sergeyevich Kovalev, are charged with a separate conspiracy to commit computer crimes, relating to hacking into the computers of U.S. persons and entities responsible for the administration of 2016 U.S. elections, such as state boards of elections, secretaries of state, and U.S. companies that supplied software and other technology related to the administration of U.S. elections. The United States District Court for the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C. issued a federal arrest warrant for each of these defendants upon the grand jury's return of the indictment.

THESE INDIVIDUALS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS, AN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT RISK, AND AN ESCAPE RISK

If you have any information concerning this case, please contact your local FBI office, or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.

## Results (New York Times)



### House races in a dozen states were affected

Tens of thousands of pages of hacked D.N.C. documents were selectively released by Guccifer 2.0 to political bloggers and newspaper reporters, causing a backlash against Democrats, like Annette Taddeo, pictured left, running for the House in highly competitive contests.



#### The hacked Podesta emails dominated news

Weeks before the election, about 60,000 hacked emails from the account of John D. Podesta, Hillary Clinton's campaign manager, were released, in small amounts, spread over many days. They sparked extensive news coverage about the campaign's internal dynamics (as well as fake news stories).



The leaks fueled a rift in the Democratic Party

The emails forced the resignation of Debbie Wasserman Schultz as chairwoman of the D.N.C. and added to the divide between supporters of Senator Bernie Sanders and Mrs. Clinton's campaign.

(Source: Microsoft 2022)



## State electoral authorities and vendors

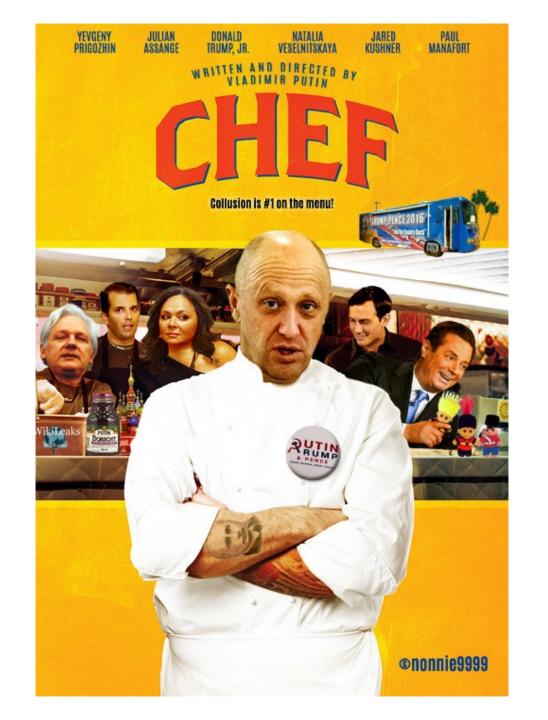
- Quite separately from attacks on the DNC and Clinton campaign a number of state and local election entities were targeted by the GRU including state boards of election.
- In addition, vendors of voting software and hardware were also targeted.
- The GRU successfully accessed a database of all the registered voters in Illinois from that state's board of elections systems and exfiltrated many thousands of records (Mueller, 2019).



# **Internet Research Agency LLC**

- In 2014 the IRA was established in St Petersburg, Russia (Smith, 2018). It has been estimated that the IRA employs over 400 people who occupy 40 rooms within its St Petersburg address.
- Discovered over the course of the US investigation, a memorandum instructs the defendants to focus on US politics using any opportunity to criticise Hillary and the other candidates, excluding Sanders and Trump.





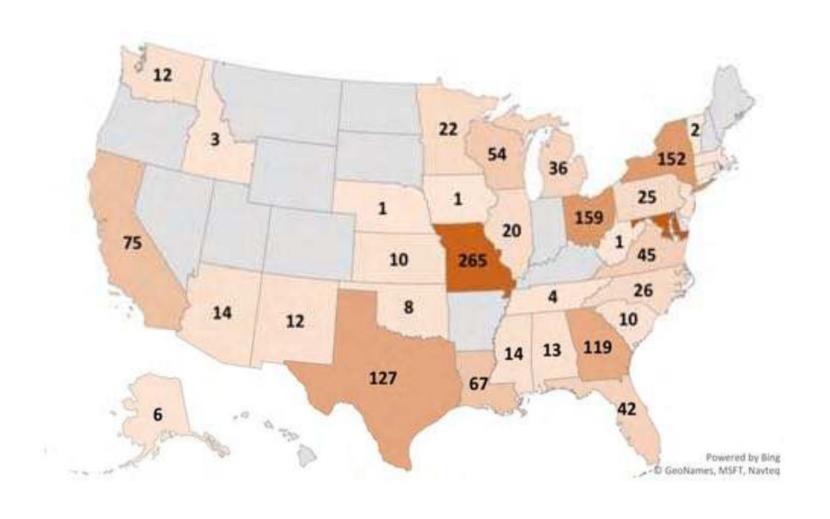
# **Events Organised by IRA**

<b>Event Date</b>	Location	State	Theme
25/6/16	New York	New York	March for Trump
9/7/16	District of Columbia	District of Columbia	Support Hillary. Save American Muslims
23/7/16	New York	New York	Down with Hillary
	West Palm Beach,		
	Jupiter, Port St.		
	Lucie, Miami,		
	Hollywood, Fort		
	Lauderdale and Coral		
20/8/16	Springs	Florida	Florida Goes for Trump
11/9/16	New York	New York	
11/9/16	Miami	Florida	
2/10/16	Various	Pennsylvannia	Miners for Trump

## **Florida Rally**



# Count of the number of times a state was targeted by IRA post (Howard et al., 2018)



# Federal Agency of Government Communications and Information (FAPSI)

- FAPSI Federal Agency of Government Communications and Information – was effectively Russia's NSA
- The staff included graduates from the Orel Military Institute of Government Communications and the Institute of Cryptographic Communications of the FSB [Federal Security Service] Information Academy, as well as mathematicians, physicists, and electronics specialists.



# **FAPSI History**

- In 1998 testimony to the United States Congress Joint Economic Committee by Victor Sheymov, a former KGB Major and head of the Cipher division, he observed a change in priorities for FAPSI with the end of the Cold War:
- ...the end of the Cold War somewhat shifted goals, objectives, and some targets of the FAPSI toward a heavier emphasis on intercept of technological, commercial and financial information. (Joint Economic Committee United States Congress 1998)
- In 1996 FAPSI with its commercial arm created an Internet service provider called "Business Network of Russia" (Argentura 2007). While it is not known if it is linked to the notorious Russian Business Network

# **FAPSI** and Organised Crime

- In 2003 FAPSI were disbanded
- Many former members of FAPSI were recruited by organised crime (Galeotti 2007)
- This is the same year phishing of Internet Banks became a problem
- Many of their FAPSI colleagues now work in the FSB and the GRU

# **CyberBerkut (Special Police)**

- Group of Pro-Russian Activists
- Large Russia ethnic population in Ukraine
- Targeting Ukrainian Government and its supporters
- Proxy for FSB



# **COVID** -19 Disinformation (Guardian)



Russian media 'spreading Covid-19 disinformation'

Leaked EU report says pro-Kremlin outlets seeking to aggravate public health crisis

Coronavirus - latest updates See all our coronavirus coverage

#### **Jennifer Rankin** in Brussels

Thu 19 Mar 2020 03.57 AEDT

Pro-Kremlin media have been spreading disinformation about coronavirus with the aim of "aggravating" the public health crisis in the west, the European Union's diplomatic service has concluded in a leaked report.

An EU monitoring team collected 80 examples of disinformation from Russian sources in nearly two months up to 16 March. Coronavirus was claimed to be a biological weapon deployed by China, the US or the UK.

# **SolarWinds (Reuters 2021)**



SUN FEB 14, 2021 / 9:14 PM EST

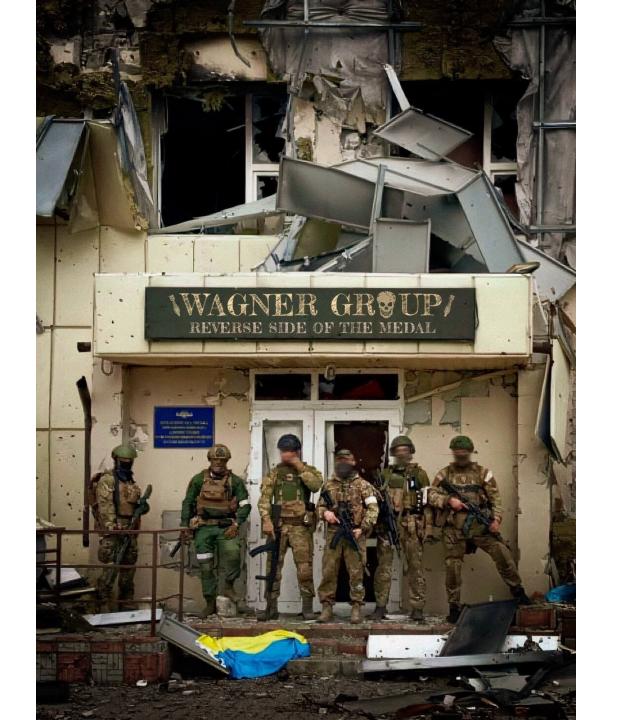
### SolarWinds hack was 'largest and most sophisticated attack' ever: Microsoft president

(Reuters) - A hacking campaign that used a U.S. tech company as a springboard to compromise a raft of U.S. government agencies is "the largest and most sophisticated attack the world has ever seen," Microsoft Corp President Brad Smith said.

The operation, which was identified in December and that the U.S. government has said was likely orchestrated by Russia, breached software made by SolarWinds Corp, giving hackers access to thousands of companies and government offices that used its products.

The hackers got access to emails at the U.S. Treasury, Justice and Commerce departments and other agencies.





#### Wagner Group Wagner Group's Global Footprint \* The pre-history of modern Russian private military companies (PMCs)\* 1000 1000 Wkraine 2022 2014 **Tsarist Russia** The Tsarist Empire relied on the Cossacks to protect its borders and fight its wars, and assigned them various military tasks, including protecting the personal safety of the Russian tsar. 2019 C Libya Civil War Period Between 1917 and 1922, both parties employed paramilitary organizations and irregular militias and vigilante groups. **Soviet Empire** The Soviet Union sent military experts to train foreign irregular armed forces and regular forces

Post-Cold War Collapse of the USSR

The sudden transition to the new system contributed to the weakening of the state's security and military apparatus. Many were employed in security companies protecting businesses and commercial and financial networks, some of which were suspicious and linked to organized crime. Some military experts and trainers remained in the countries in which they previously worked, as in Libya.

of friendly countries. Sometimes, as happened in

Libva, the trainers morphed into mercenaries.

\*Defence & Security Foresight Group (University of Waterloo)

2000 CAR Mozambique 📻 1000 Sources differ on the actual numbers; the highest estimates are adopted here, but many members of WG are now being redeployed in Ukraine. \*Radio Free Europe, Al Jazeera, BBC, DW, The Jerusalem Post, The Intercept

Wagner Group Roots



Volunteers who fought in various conflicts that arose within the former Soviet Union, including regions such as the Caucasus, Balkans, and parts of Central Asia.

Members of private armed forces that arose in the 1990s with the expansion of criminal networks. As the state centralized and tightened its grip on power, individuals moved to private security companies that provided services to influential people in the government, including President Putin.

July

2018

Professional private military companies, most notably Moran Security Group, which fought on the side of the Syrian regime.

\*Defence & Security Foresight Group (University of Waterloo)

- About the group\*

officially confirm.

The number of Wagner contractors currently deployed in Africa is estimated at 10,000 nercenaries distributed in different countries.

Wagner seeks to sign contracts with the governments of Ethiopia and Nigeria.

Al Jazeera, Fontanka, and Foreign Policy



that Russian mercenaries working for a





Kirill Radchenko

Three Russian journalists who were investigating the activities of the Wagner Group in the Central African Republic. They were killed when the car they were traveling in was ambushed in Sibut, 200 km northeast of the capital Bangui.

High-Profile Individuals Linked to Wagner Group\*



**Dmitriy Utkin** 

Founder and leader of the Wagner Group, which bears his call sign. Born in Ukraine, he participated in the Chechen wars and the 2014 Ukraine war and served in the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces (Intelligence Directorate) until 2013. He worked with Moran Security Group and was part of the mission of the Slavonic Corps company to Syria. He was awarded the Order of Courage at an official ceremony held in the Kremlin, in which he appeared in a photo with President Putin.



**Andrey Troshev** 

Retired colonel, founding member and "Chief of Staff" of the Wagner Group. A veteran of wars in Afghanistan and Chechnya, holder of the title of the Hero of the Russian Federation for his role in the first seizure of Palmyra, Syria in March 2016. He is subject to European sanctions for his role and participation in the group's military operations in Syria.



Andrei Bogatov

The commander of the fourth group specialized in reconnaissance and intelligence since 2014. He lost his arm by friendly fire in the battle of Palmyra, and then headed a team protecting critical infrastructure, including an oil refinery. He is subject to European sanctions for his role and participation in the group's military operations in Syria.



Alexander Kuznetsov

Nickname Ratibor, Commander of an assault squadron in the Wagner Group. He was a Major in the Special Forces before he was imprisoned in 2008 for kidnapping and burglary. In 2014, he joined the Wagner Group and fought in its ranks in Ukraine and Syria. He was wounded in Libya while fighting alongside Haftar's forces, and the European Union accuses him of "threatening peace, security and stability" in Libya.



Security Adviser to the President of the Central African Republic. The European Union accuses him of orchestrating the murder of three Russian reporters in the Central African Republic and describes him as a key figure in the Wagner Group command structure.



Wagner Group financier. A businessman who made his fortune in the 1990s from his catering business. Closely associated with President Vladimir Putin and nicknamed "Putin's Chef" as his company caters to the official banquets of the Kremlin and Russian President Putin. He is subject to US sanctions for interfering in the 2016 US presidential campaign. He was imprisoned in 1981 for theft and fraud, and spent 9 years in prison.

\*Respublika - Center for Civil Resistance, The Guardian, Al Jazeera, Reuters, Fontanka, The Times

Journalists Died Investigating Wagner\*

An investigative journalist who revealed

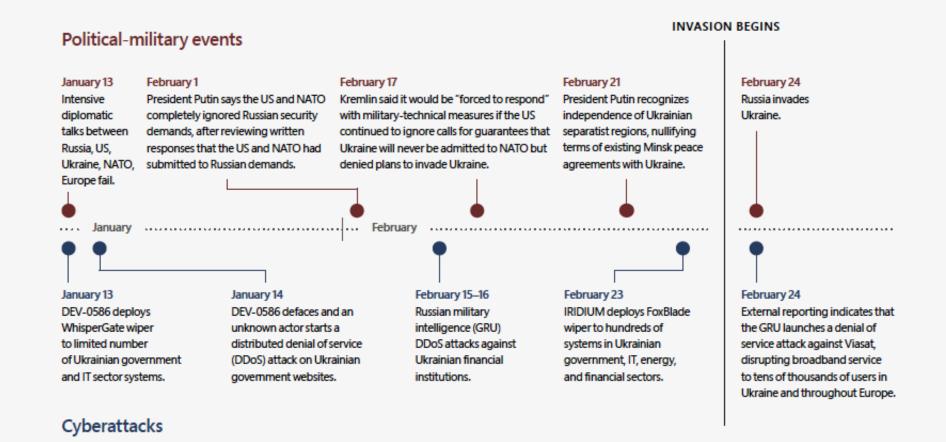
**Maxim Borodin** 

company called Wagner were killed in Syria. He died in mysterious circumstances after falling from the balcony of his apartment on the fifth floor in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

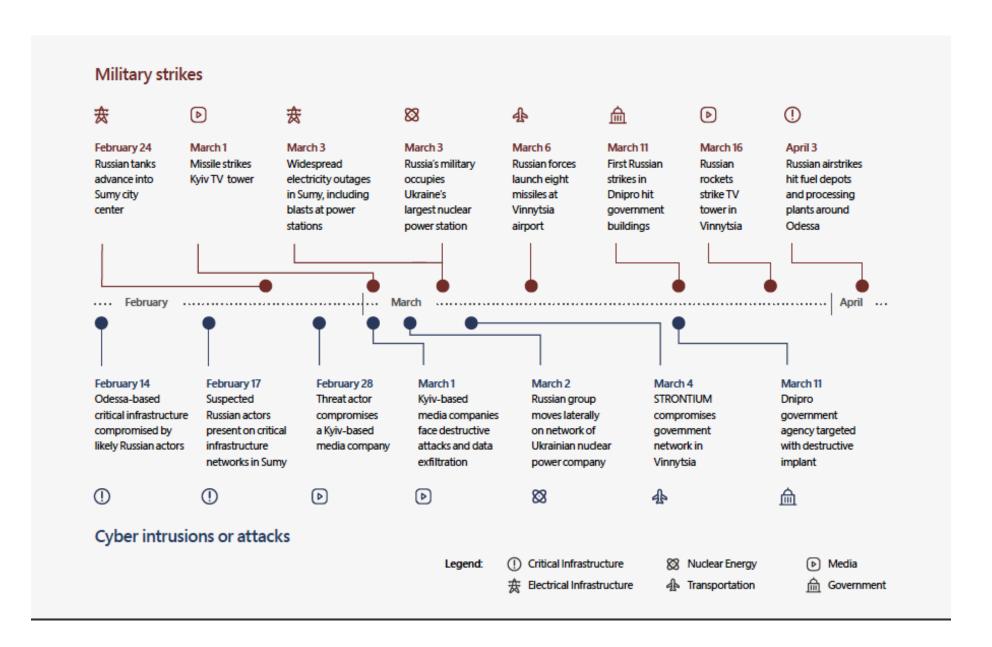
SOUFAN

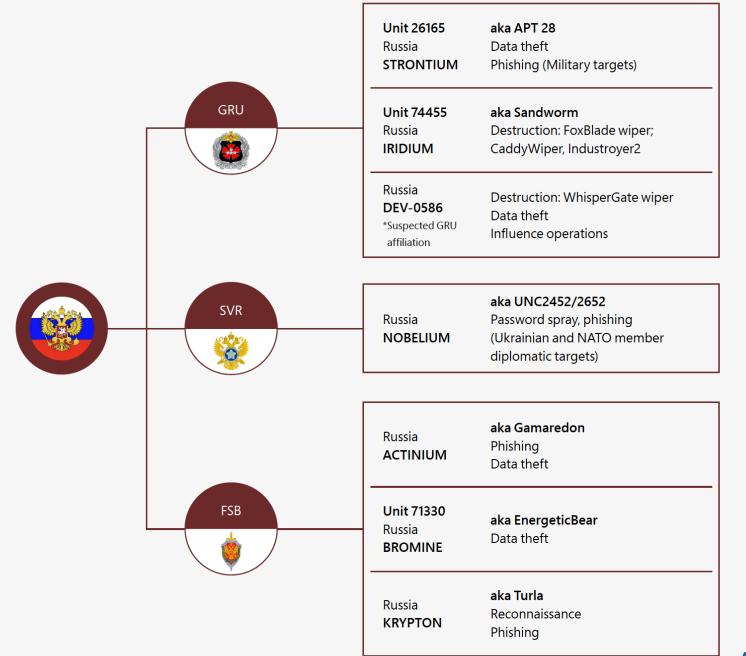
**Orkhan Dzhemal** 

Alexander Rastorguyev



Pre-invasion timeline indicates Russian threat actors launched increasingly disruptive and visible cyberattacks against Ukraine on the heels of major diplomatic failures related to the conflict.





(Source: Microsoft 2022)

## **China - Three Warfares**

- Work Guidelines of the People's Liberation Army commonly known as China's Three Warfares — which are:
  - public opinion warfare,
  - psychological warfare,
  - and legal warfare.



## **China IP Theft**

- Chinese cyber IP theft is consistent with its government policies of technology transfer
- "Chinese companies have been pillaging the intellectual property of American companies. All together, intellectual-property theft costs America up to \$600 billion a year, the greatest transfer of wealth in history. China accounts for most of that loss Intellectual-property theft covers a wide spectrum: counterfeiting American fashion designs, pirating movies and video games, patent infringement and stealing proprietary technology and software. (NYT Blair & Alexander 2017)"
- "Bolstered by its commercial heft, China's global ambition is increasingly built on ports, highways and pipelines in the expansion of its supply chain empire. More than this, China's grand strategy is built on developing new markets for advanced Chinese technology (Forbes Araya 2019)."

## China

- China's capability includes the Ministry of State Security which is responsible for overseas intelligence and keeping an eye on troublesome minority groups within China.
- The Chinese military, the People Liberation Army (PLA), have large information warfare units which while largely defensive also have offensive capabilities and are used for info war including espionage.



# **Origins of Chinese Cyber Capability**

- In 1990s Chinese military thinking observed the importance of targeting IT systems in US attacks and First Gulf war in 1990-91 on Yugoslavia in 1999
- Downing of Chinese Jet over Hainan in 2000 showed role of patriotic hackers with Code Red
- Titan Rain (Byzantine Hades) attacks in 2004/2005 against
   US military networks showed their cyber military capability
- 2010 PLA Daily announced the establishment of formal PLA cyber command
- In 2016 PLA Strategic Support Force was formed for cyber warfare, space warfare, and electronic warfare



# **PLASSF Commander (Adam Ni)**



# **Counter-Intelligence Trinity (Lam 2018)**

- Employ new laws and regulations to integrate national counterintelligence efforts, as
- Improve communication between Chinese security agencies, civilian and military, and
- Advance a "broad concept of national security" going beyond traditional counterintelligence from earlier, less connected times to better protect
   China in a time of heightened foreign influence inside the PRC

# **China and Australian Mining**

- Australian Mining Sector including Rio Tinto Group, BHP Billiton Ltd. and Fortescue Metal Groups have been targeted by Chinese state sponsored attacks dating back to 2008.
- PLA units were seeking intelligence on pricing to assist in negotiations.
- Head of UK's MI5 said Rio Tinto attack cost over AUD\$1 Billion
- The theft of intellectual property such as production methods, mineral processing methods, chemical formulae, custom software also targeted by state sponsored groups to assisting their own industries to compete.

# **Tibetan Activists Targeted (Citizen Lab 2009)**

From: "campaigns@freetibet.org" <campaigns@freetibet.org>

Date: 25 July 2008

Subject: Translation of Freedom Movement ID Book for Tibetans in Exile

Translation of Freedom Movement ID Book for Tibetans in Exile.

Front Cover

Emblem of the Tibetan government in Exile

Script: Voluntary Contribution into common fund for Tibetan Freedom Movement

Inside Cover

Resolution was passed in the preliminary general body meeting of the Tibetan Freedom Movement held on July 30, 1972 that the Tibetan refugees in exile would promise for each individual,Äôs share of the voluntary contribution into the Tibetan Freedom Movement Receipt book. This resolution was later reaffirmed by the 11th Tibetan People,Äôs Deputies and passed into the law on April 01, 1992 (Tibetan King Year 2119)

Until the last page of this book is used, the book stands valid until August 15, 2012

Date: August 16, 2008

Emblem of the Tibetan Government in Exile

Official Signature

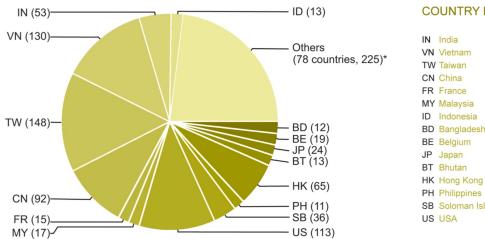
Attachment: Translation of Freedom Movement ID Book for Tibetans in Exile.doc

# **GhostNet Infection Distribution** (Information Warfare Monitor 2009)

Fig. 12 The geographic location of infected hosts.

**TOTAL IPs: 986** 

Total number of countries: 93



#### **COUNTRY KEY**

- SB Soloman Islands

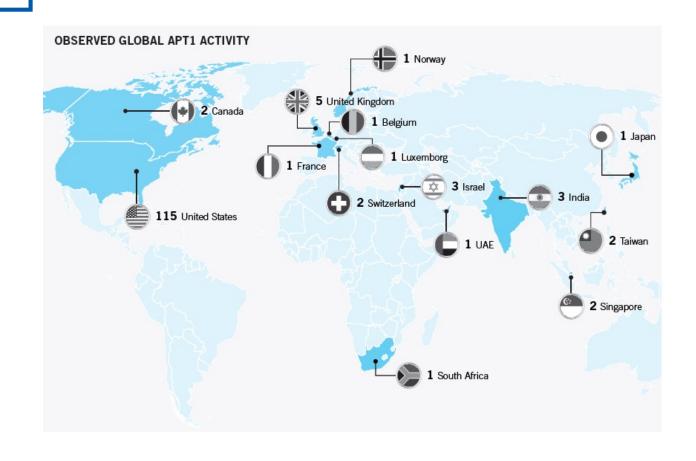
# **APT 1 (Mandiant 2013)**

- Mandiant's analysis has led them conclude that APT1 is likely government-sponsored and one of the most persistent of China's cyber threat actors.
- In seeking to identify the organization behind this activity, their research found that People's Liberation Army (PLA's) Unit 61398 is similar to APT1 in its mission, capabilities, and resources.

# **APT 1 (Mandiant)**



# **APT 1 (Mandiant)**



# PLA Indictments (DOJ 2014)



## **GU CHUNHUI**

Conspiring to Commit Computer Fraud; Accessing a Computer Without Authorization for the Purpose of Commercial Advantage and Private Financial Gain; Damaging Computers Through the Transmission of Code and Commands; Aggravated Identity Theft; Economic Espionage; Theft of Trade Secrets



Aliases: Gu Chun Hui, "KandyGoo"

#### DETAILS

On May 1, 2014, a grand jury in the Western District of Pennsylvania indicted five members of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) for 31 criminal counts, including: conspiring to commit computer fraud; accessing a computer without authorization for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain; damaging computers through the transmission of code and commands; aggravated identity theft; economic espionage; and theft of trade secrets.

The subjects, including Gu Chunhui, were officers of the PRC's Third Department of the General Staff Department of the People's Liberation Army (3PLA), Second Bureau, Third Office, Military Unit Cover Designator (MUCD) 61398, at some point during the investigation. The activities executed by each of these individuals allegedly involved in the conspiracy varied according to his specialties. Each provided his individual

# Putter Panda (Crowdstrike 2014)

- Putter Panda is a cyber espionage actor that conducts operations from Shanghai, China, likely on behalf of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) 3rd General Staff Department 12th Bureau Unit 61486.
- This unit is supports the space based signals intelligence (SIGINT) mission.



# Chen Ping, aka cpyy

 The attribution provided in this report points to Chen Ping, aka cpyy (born on May 29, 1979), as an individual responsible for the domain registration for the Command and Control (C2) of PUTTER PANDA malware.







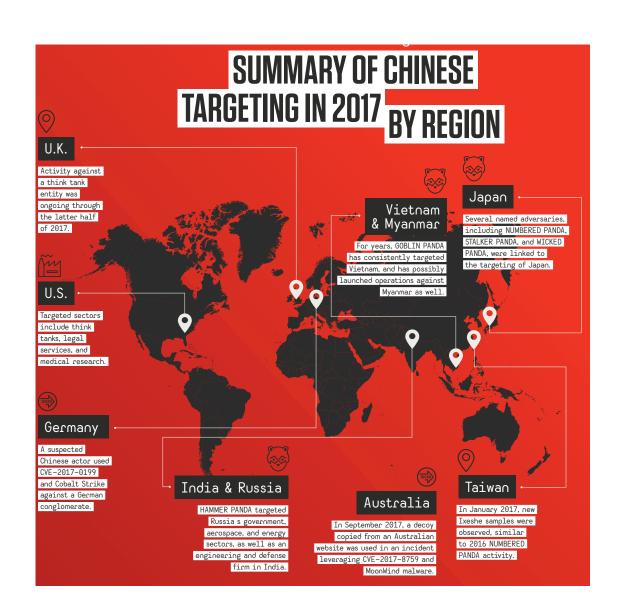




# MSS Indictments (DOJ 2018)



# China (Crowdstrike 2018)



# A Military Camera Said 'Made in U.S.A.' The Screen Was in Chinese.

The surveillance equipment was actually manufactured in China, raising concerns that Beijing could have used it for spying, prosecutors said.



Richard P. Donoghue, the United States attorney in Brooklyn, discussing the charges against the Long Island firm Aventura. Mark Lennihan/Associated Press

#### By Nicole Hong

### Health insurer Anthem hit by hackers, up to 80 million records exposed

The second largest health insurer in the US has been the victim of what could be the largest data breach in the healthcare sector to date.



By Charlie Osborne for Zero Day | February 5, 2015 -- 12:29 GMT (23:29 AEDT) | Topic: Security

27,052 views | Mar 11, 2019, 05:45am

#### Marriott CEO Reveals New **Details About Mega Breach**



Kate O'Flaherty Contributor ① Cybersecurity I'm a freelance cyber security journalist.



New details have emerged about the attack on Marriott last year, following a testimony by the Group's CEO Arne Sorenson. Signage is displayed on a door to a Marriott International Inc. hotel in Chicago, Illinois, U.S., on Friday, Nov. 30, 2018. A cyber breach in Starwood's reservation system had allowed unauthorized access to information about as many as 500 million guests since 2014 Photographer: Daniel Acker/Bloomberg @ 2018 BLOOMBERG FINANCE LP

# **US Efforts to Ban Huawei (NYT)**

The New York Times

#### U.S. Campaign to Ban Huawei Overseas Stumbles as Allies Resist



American officials have tried to pressure, scold and, increasingly, threaten other countries that are considering using Huawei in building fifth-generation, or 5G, wireless networks.

Pau Barrena/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

By Julian E. Barnes and Adam Satariano











# **Huawei Funded By CCP (Forbes)**



# **News on Huawei (BBC)**

#### Huawei: Government wins vote after backbench rebellion















The government has defeated the first rebellion from its own MPs over plans to allow Huawei to be used in the UK's 5G mobile network.

Thirty-eight Conservative rebels backed an amendment to end the Chinese firm's participation in the project by the start of 2023.

Despite promises from the government of a new bill to address their concerns, rebel MPs pushed their plan to a vote.

But with a large Commons majority, the government defeated it by 24 votes.

Standard Form 86 Revised December 2010 U.S. Office of Personnel Management

#### QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ATIONAL SECURITY POSITIONS

Form approved: OMB No. 3206 0005

NATIONAL SECURITY POSITIONS 5 CFR Parts 731, 732, and 736 PERSONS COMPLETING THIS FORM SHOULD BEGIN WITH THE QUESTIONS BELOW AFTER CAREFULLY READING THE PRECEDING INSTRUCTIONS. I have read the instructions and I understand that if I withhold, misrepresent, or falsify information on this form, I am subject YES NO to the penalties for inaccurate or false statement (per U. S. Criminal Code, Title 18, section 1001), denial or revocation of a security clearance, and/or removal and debarment from Federal Service. Provide your full name. If you have only initials in your name, provide them and indicate "Initial only". If you do not have a middle name, indicate "No Middle Name". If you are a "Jr.," "Sr.," etc. enter this under Suffix. Last name First name Middle name Suffix Section 2 - Date of Birth Section 3 - Place of Birth Provide your date of birth. Provide your place of birth. (Month/Day/Year) City County State Country (Required) Section 4 - Social Security Number Provide your U.S. Social Security Number. Not applicable Section 5 - Other Names Used YES NO (If NO, proceed to Section 6) Have you used any other names? Complete the following if you have responded 'Yes' to having used other names. Provide your other name(s) used and the period of time you used it/them [for example: your maiden name(s), name(s) by a former marriage, former name(s), alias(es), or nickname(es)]. If you have only initials in your name(s), provide them and indicate "Initial only." If you do not have a middle name (s), indicate "No Middle Name" (NMN). If you are a "Jr.," "Sr.," etc. enter this under Suffix. #1 Last name First name Middle name Suffix Maiden name? Provide the reason(s) why the name changed From (Month/Year) To (Month/Year) Present YES NO Est. Est. #2 Last name First name Middle name Suffix From (Month/Year) To (Month/Year) Maiden name? Provide the reason(s) why the name changed Present ☐YES ☐ NO Est. Est. #3 Last name First name Middle name Suffix From (Month/Year) Maiden name? Provide the reason(s) why the name changed Present YES NO Est. Est. #4 Last name Middle name Suffix First name

		ESL.		ESI.			
Section 6 - Your Identifying Information							
	Provide your identifying Height		Weight (in pounds)	Hair color		Eye color	Sex Female
	(feet)	(inches)					Male

Maiden name?

□VES □NO □

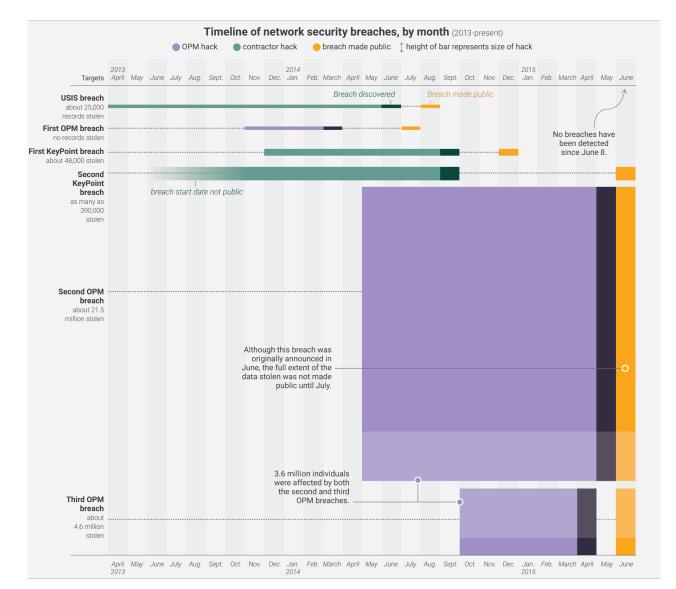
Present

Provide the reason(s) why the name changed

To (Month/Year)

From (Month/Year)

# **OPM Breaches (National Journal 2016)**



# **OPM Congressional Hearing (2015)**

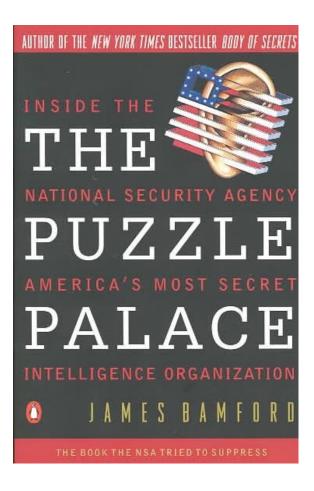


### Legitimate Cyber Targets (Michael Hayden)



# **USA: National Security Agency**

- History dates back to WW2 code breaking and Signals Intelligence Service.
- Modern organization formed in 1952
- Puzzle Palace published in 1982 brought light to "No Such Agency".
- Cyber world rich pickings for NSA
- Broad scope of activities revealed by Edward Snowden



#### Who executed Stuxnet?

- NSA's Tailored Access
   Operations (TAO)
   reportedly was behind
   Stuxnet
- Their mission is offensive cyber operations



# Need a Zero Day? (Wired 2016)

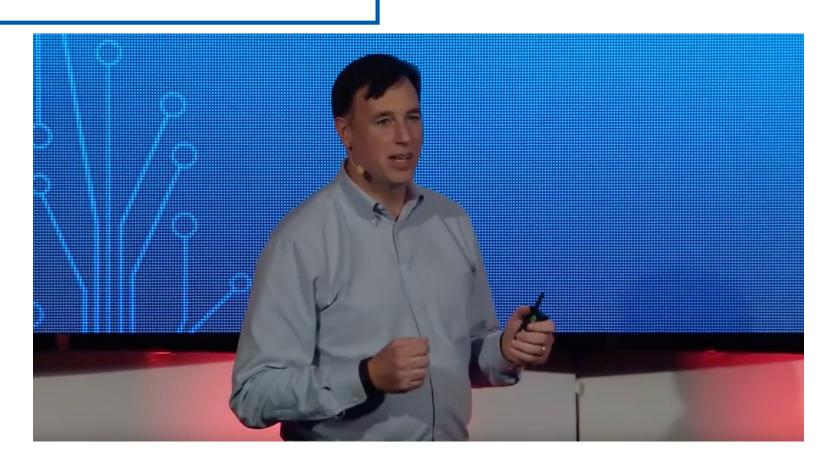
Rob Joyce head of TAO commented to a 2016 security conference,

"[With] any large network, I will tell you that persistence and focus will get you in, will achieve that exploitation without the zero days," he says. "There's so many more vectors that are easier, less risky and quite often more productive than going down that route."



Source. wired.com

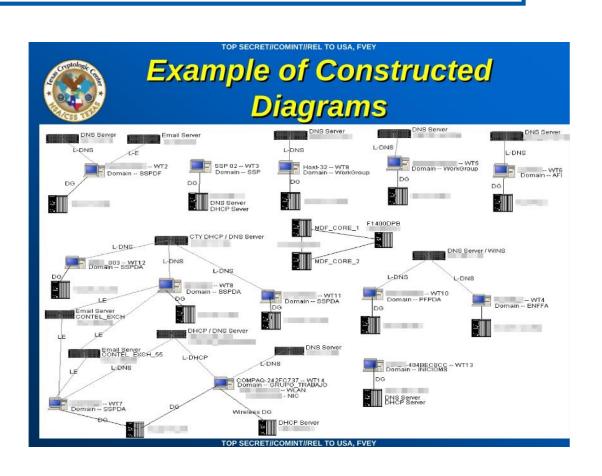
# How the TAO operates (Rob Joyce NSA)



# **TAO in San Antonio (der Spiegel 2013)**



# Targeting Mexican Mexico's Secretariat of Public Security



TOP SECRET//COMINT//REL TO USA, FVEY

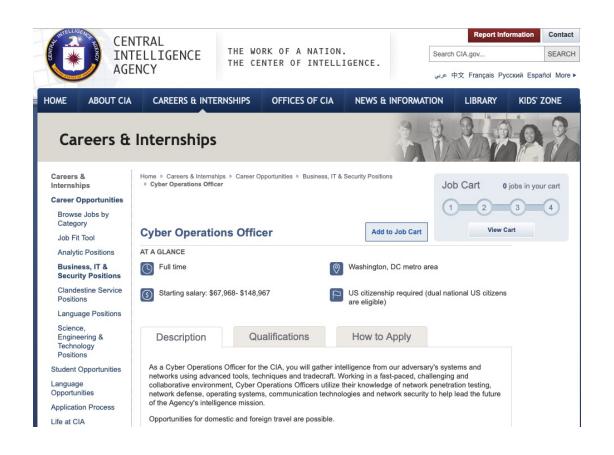
#### SSG Enabling Strategy

- Target System Administrators & Telecommunication Engineers
- Expand access to include higher priority Mexican security related organizations
- Find and Exploit S2 Targets of Interest

TOP SECRET//COMINT//REL TO USA, FVEY

# **Central Intelligence Agency**

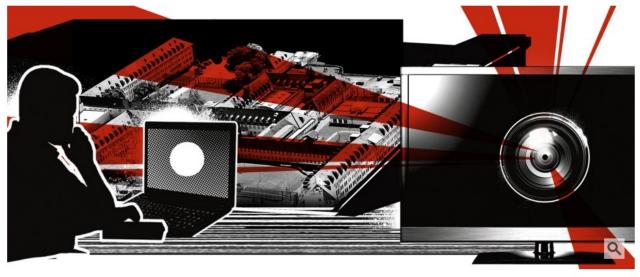
- Like other intelligence agencies CIA uses cyber extensively
- Center for Cyber Intelligence within CIA responsible for the capability
- Wikileaks Vault 7 release in 2017
- Reveals direction of global hacking program
- Information on agency's malware arsenal
- Claims that CIA used products like iPhones and smart TVs as covert microphones



### **Frankurt Base**

7. März 2017, 17:49 Uhr Wikileaks

#### Frankfurter US-Generalkonsulat soll Spionagezentrale sein



US Botschaft (Foto: Illustration Stefan Dimitrov)



 Das US-Generalkonsulat in Frankfurt ist offenbar eine Zentrale zur digitalen Überwachung.



 Das geht aus Dokumenten hervor, die die Enthüllungsplattform Wikileaks am Dienstag veröffentlicht hat.



Feedback

Von Frankfurt aus soll auch die Einrichtung von CIA-Foltergefängnissen und der Angriff auf Merkels Handy geplant worden sein.



# **China Under Attack (ipvm.com)**

# **China Surveillance Vulnerabilities Being Used To Attack China, Says China**

By: Charles Rollet, Published on Apr 07, 2020

While China video surveillance vulnerabilities have been much debated in the West in the past few years, China is now saying those vulnerabilities are being used to attack China.



This news comes from the PRC's main cyber threat monitoring body, which stated a recent hacking campaign's use of longstanding vulnerabilities is "sounding the alarm" on PRC IoT security, illustrating the risk associated with devices from that country.

In this post, we examine this news, including:

- Attack Background
- CNCERT Gives Update on Hacking Methods, Impact
- China Manufacturers Especially Vulnerable
- Cybersecurity Expert PenTestPartners Feedback: DVR Vulnerability from 2016
- CNCERT: Hack "Sounded The Alarm" on China IoT Security
- CNCERT Recommends Manufacturers, Users Beef Up Security
- Prior Warning: PRC IoT Devices May Be "More Susceptible"

# **Inside US Cyber Command Video (2018)**



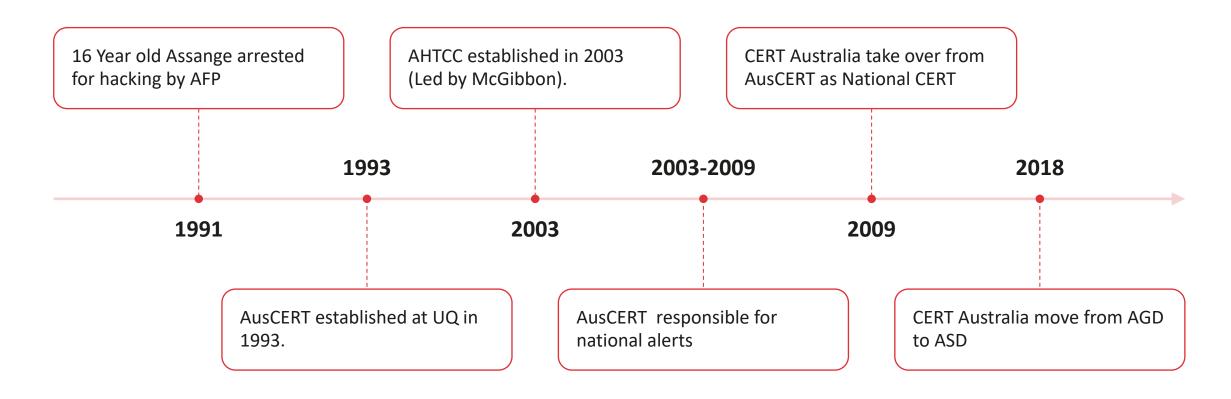
https://www.pbs.org/video/inside-cyber-command-1522442446/

### **GCHQ**

- Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ)
- The UK's cyber security mission is led by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), which is a part of GCHQ.
- "Effects we have a range of online capabilities that can lead to a real world outcome (GCHQ 2019)."
- Operation Socialist 2010 -2013



#### **Australian Timeline**



# **Australian Signals Directorate (ASD)**

- ASD formerly DSD
- Similar role to GCHQ
- Increasingly involved in Cyber since 2000s
- Snowden revealed they spied on PNG military despite the close ties
- Defence and ASD replaced AFP as prime for cyber response
- ASD took over CERT Australia from AGs and ACSC now has offensive cyber in role





# **ISIS Cyber Attacks**



## **North Korea**

- Cyber threats from the North
  Korean government are significant
  and increasing, but are less
  sophisticated than threats posed by
  countries such as China or Russia.
- The government has demonstrated a willingness to engage in seemingly reckless and sometimes destructive operations without regard for international norms and consequences.



## **North Korea**

- North Korean operations primarily target organisations in South Korea.
- However, organisations in countries that North Korea considers strategically important, particularly the United States and Japan are also targeted
- The North Korean government's cyber capabilities are drawn exclusively from its intelligence agencies and subordinate offices; there is no civilian hacking community in North Korea.



## **North Korea**

- Analysis suggests that North Korea leverages these agencies' cyber capabilities to achieve the following objectives:
  - sabotage and disruption
  - political, military, and economic intelligence gathering
  - government-sponsored criminal moneymaking
- One former British intelligence chief estimates the take from its cyberheists may bring the North as much as \$1 billion a year, or a third of the value of the nation's exports (Source: NYT 2018)

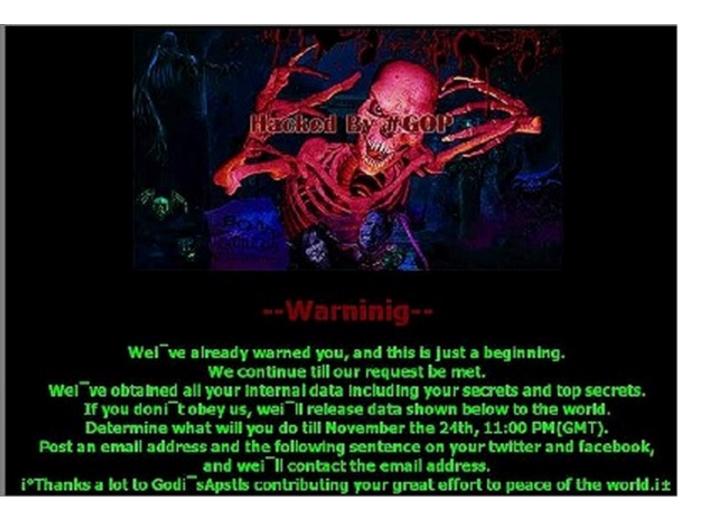
# Darkseoul 2013 (KrebsonSecurity)

# acked By Whois Team ::: Who is 'Whois' ? ::: r3cvcl3r@whois.com WARNING !!! 111 111 We have an Interest in Hacking. This is the Beginning of Our Movement. User Acounts and All Data are in Our Hands.

Unfortunately, We have deleted Your Data.

We'll be back Soon.

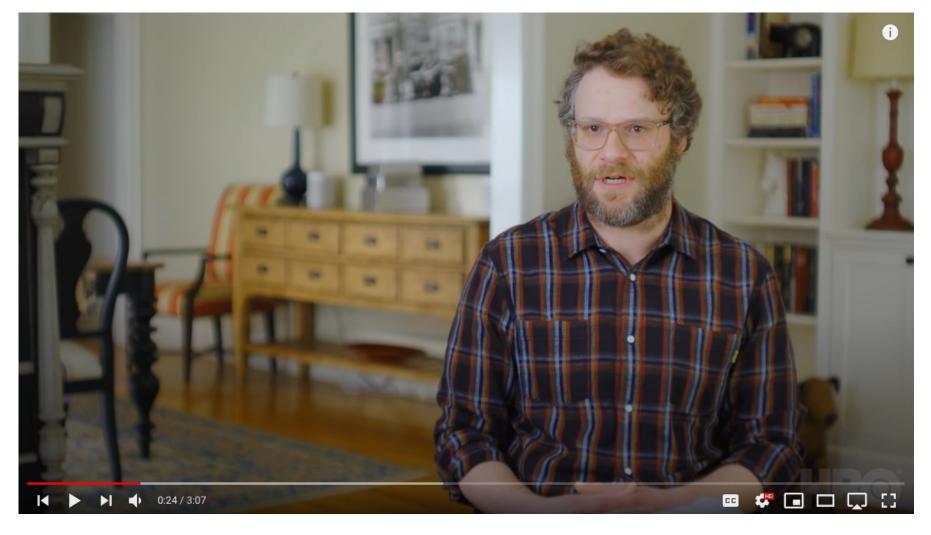
See You Again



# The Interview 2014 (amazon.com)



# Perfect Weapon – Sony Hack

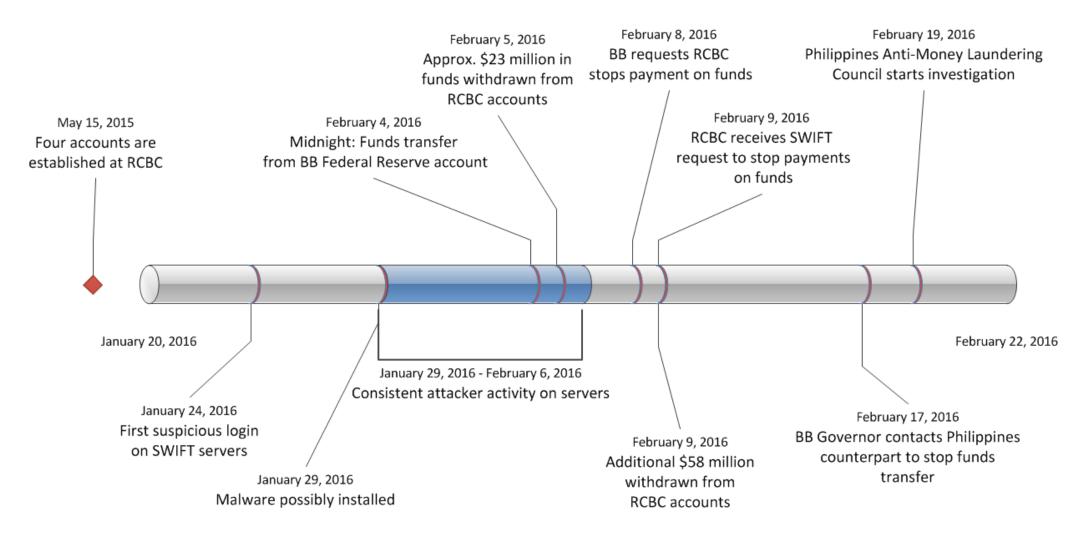


https://youtu.be/t4H6sjMis\_s?list=PLbxnlnLusWSpIQEN5MZv0wwA7Q9xShX6Y

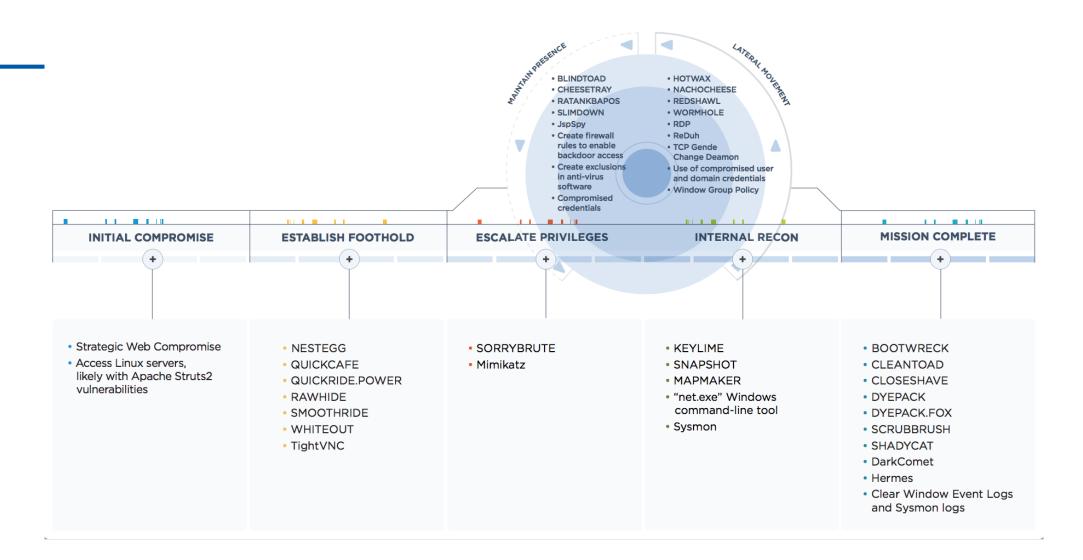
# Cybercrime of the SWIFT interbank network 2016 (Langdale)

- In February 2016 computer hackers stole over US \$100 million from the Bangladesh Bank by sending requests to the U.S. Federal Reserve in New York for around US \$1 billion
- Fortunately most of the requests were denied and of the \$100 million that was stolen around \$20 million was detected and returned
- Subsequently, another \$18 billion was recovered, but the rest has disappeared

# North Korean Attack on Swift (Secureworks)



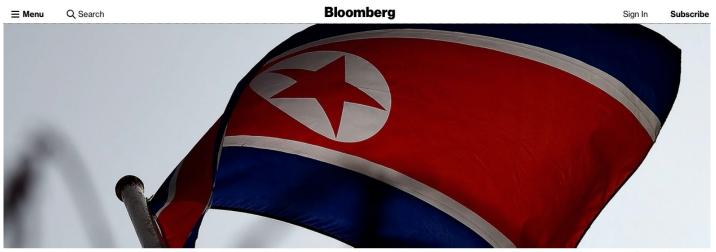
# **APT38 Attack Lifecycle (Mandiant 2018)**



# Wannacry (ZDnet 2017)



## **Threats to Banking (Bloomberg)**



Cybersecurity

Photographer: Manan Vatsyayana/AFP via Getty Image.

# U.S. Warns North Korean Hacking Threatens International Finance

By <u>Alyza Sebenius</u> 16 April 2020, 3:56 am AEST

- ▶ Advisory comes as U.S. adversaries seek to leverage pandemic
- ► Among North Korea's cyber tactics: hacking websites for others



LISTEN TO ARTICLE

1:56

The U.S. government warned that North Korea's digital activities, including cybertheft and extortion, threatens the "integrity and stability of the international finance system."

nid heavy sanctions, North Korea "has increasingly relied

SHARE THIS ARTICLE

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Amid heavy sanctions, North Korea "has increasingly relied on illicit activities — including cybercrime — to generate revenue for its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs," according to an advisory issued



### Israel

- Israel has a highly advanced cyber capability both for defence and offence
- Its most famous Unit 8200 is part of the Israeli military and was a signals intelligence organisation much like the NSA and GCHQ
- Unit 8200 worked with NSA to develop and deliver Stuxnet
- Many former Unit 8200 personnel work in the burgeoning Israeli cyber security industry



vice.com

# Unit 8200 Recruiting & Operations in Palestinian Territories





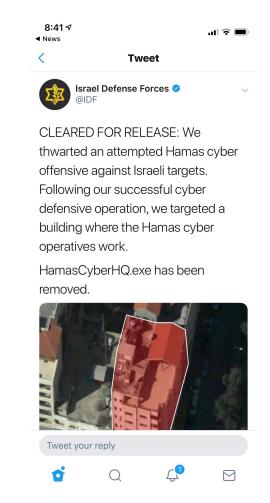
https://video.vice.com/en\_us/video/how-israel-rules-the-world-of-cyber-security/5a565b99177dd47339271be1 5.53

## Yoel Guzanksy Israeli NSC

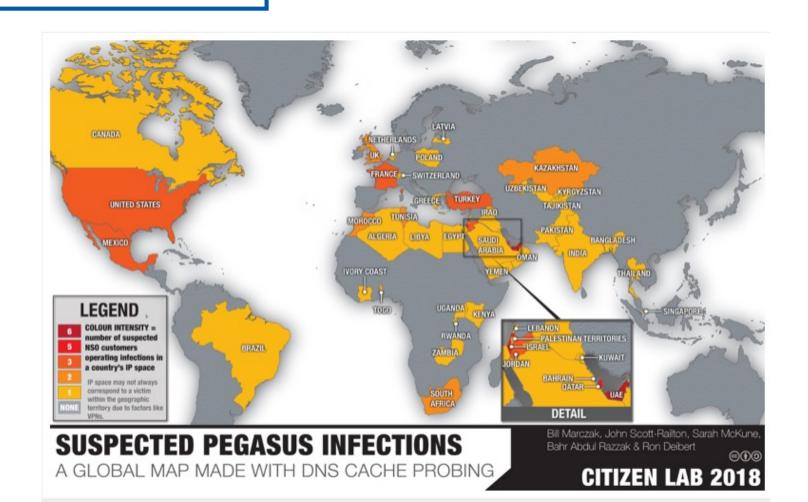
• "..(Cyber operations) involve pinpointing and surgically targeting the specific nuclear threat while minimizing the collateral damage. The idea is that each operation, in and of itself, isn't blatant or overwhelming enough to force Iran to react. But these attacks also deliver a message to Iran that whoever is behind them has direct access to nuclear and military assets within the country. The demonstrated ability to penetrate Iranian territory and facilities underscores Iranian vulnerability to the suspected attacker's long reach. As such, beyond any delays to Iran's program, this demonstrated "invisible hand" has a psychological effect, which enhances Iran's sense of paranoia that any equipment malfunction might very well be due to external intervention."

# IDF respond to Cyber with Kinetic Strike (IDF 2019)





## **NSO Group (Citizen Lab 2018)**



#### Iran

- Iran has developed its cyber capability rapidly
- While some patriotic hackers existing in the early 2000s Iran was late to the game
- The cyber units within the Iranian Revolutionary Guard are an outgrowth of Iran's response to Stuxnet, Flame and Gauss



Cbsnews.com

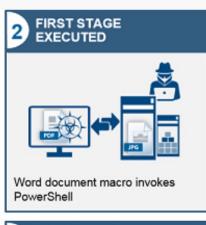
#### Shamoon 2012

- Saudi Aramco & Qatar Gas IT networks were targeted by destructive malware Shamoon as a response by Iran after Stuxnet.
- The malware wiped 30,000 hard disks in the process.
- While Aramco's OT network was unaffected all their business systems were down.
- They had to give away oil over a month.

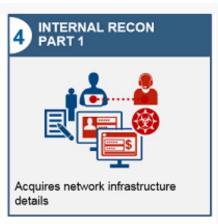


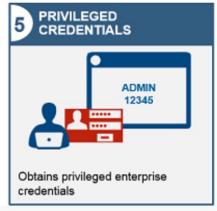
# **Shamoon (IBM)**

















#### The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

**National Security** 

# Iran blamed for cyberattacks on U.S. banks and companies

















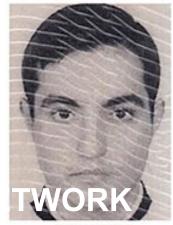


By Ellen Nakashima September 21, 2012 Email the author

# WANTED

#### BY THE FBI

#### CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT COMPUTER INTRUSION



Ahmad Fathi



Hamid Firoozi



Amin Shokohi



Mohammad Sadegh Ahmadzadegan



Omid Ghaffarinia



Sina Keissar



Nader Saedi



Home

News

Events

Archive

Archive 🍁

Onhold

Notify Stats

Register

Login

search...

Mirror saved on: 2010-04-23 17:46:26

Notified by: Sun Army **Domain:** http://technologygateway.nasa.gov/sun.htm Web server: Sun-Java-System-Web-Server/7.0 System: SolarisSunOS

This is a CACHE (mirror) page of the site when it was saved by our robot on 2010-04-23 17:46:26

IP address: 198.119.166.46

Notifier stats

2



#### ADCRUMBS

#### In The Name Of God

The Nasa organization which is funded by Usa and plays an important role not only in the most of scientific fields but also

in many other projects like "Star Wars" which was aimed to weeken the former soviet union, now has come down to its knees toward

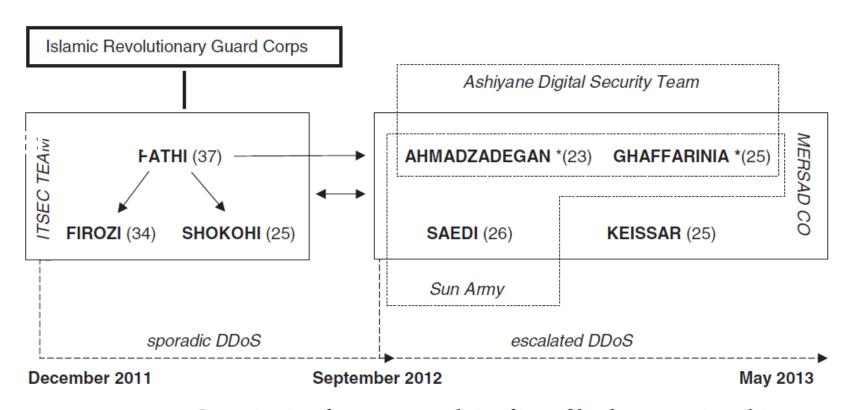
the scientific level of young iranians and iran, the birth place of Cyrus the great, who formed the biggest empire the world has

ever seen.

the scientific apartaide which is imposed by Usa and it alies can never prevent us from progressing in international scene, special peaceful nuclear

energy.

## **Iranian Org Structure (Maurer 2018)**

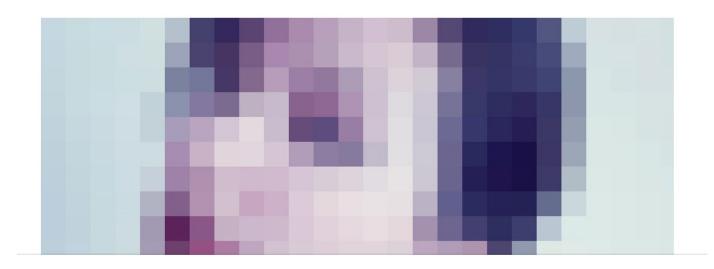


US indictment in 2016 of seven Iranian hackers.

# Linkedin Used by Iranians (Wired & Secureworks 2017)

ANDY GREENBERG 07.27.17 10:00 AM

# MEET MIA ASH, THE FAKE WOMAN IRANIAN HACKERS USED TO LURE VICTIMS



#### **Others**

# Revealed: How a secret Dutch mole aided the U.S.-Israeli Stuxnet cyberattack on Iran

Kim Zetter and Huib Modderkolk · Contributors

September 3, 2019



Yahoo News photo illustration; photos: AP, Getty Images. Shutterstock

For years, an enduring mystery has surrounded the Stuxnet virus attack that targeted Iran's nuclear program: How did the U.S. and Israel get their malware onto computer systems at the highly secured uranium-enrichment plant?

#### Conclusion

- All major states have offensive cyber capability these are just some examples
- Cyber is currently just short of war so a good option for nation states
- Attacks can be mounted by militray or intelligence operations, private partners, co-opt organised crime and patritoc hackers
- Nations are also integrating cyber attacks in their war plans

# Thank you for your attention



university of applied sciences