

---

APRIL GLASER 07.27.16 09:30 AM

# Here's What We Know About Russia and the DNC Hack



**Don't miss the future**

Subscribe today for unlimited access to WIRED.com.

Plus get the print and digital editions of the  
magazine.

**SUBSCRIBE**

Already a subscriber? Sign in

---

---

accusations of Russian hacking continue to cloud the proceedings. At this point, it seems likely that Russia is responsible. What's less clear is what that will mean going forward.

It's been a bad stretch for the Democratic National Committee. Hackers broke into its servers months ago, stealing private emails, opposition research, and campaign correspondence. Last Friday, Wikileaks made nearly 20,000 of those private emails public, revealing embarrassing details of the political machine's inner workings. DNC official allege that the Russian government is behind the breach. The New York Times reports that US intelligence agencies increasingly share that opinion. According to a number of top cybersecurity researchers, they're probably right.

## A Brief History of a Hack

News of the hack of the Democratic National Committee first broke in mid-June. That's when CrowdStrike, a firm that analyzes threats to network security, revealed that the DNC had called it in to inspect the party's servers, where it found "two separate Russian intelligence-affiliated adversaries present in the DNC network." CrowdStrike released a comprehensive report of its findings on June 14, which accompanied a Washington Post article detailing the attacks. One of the hacking groups, CrowdStrike found, had access to the DNC servers for almost a year.

A day after that report, someone calling themselves Guccifer 2.0 (an allusion to notorious hacker Guccifer) claimed responsibility for the hack in a blog post. Through the blog and an accompanying Twitter account, Guccifer 2.0 refuted CrowdStrike's claims that this was a

### Don't miss the future

Subscribe today for unlimited access to WIRED.com.

Plus get the print and digital editions of the  
magazine.

**SUBSCRIBE**

Already a subscriber? Sign in

---

## TRENDING NOW



### Don't miss the future

Subscribe today for unlimited access to WIRED.com.

Plus get the print and digital editions of the  
magazine.

### SUBSCRIBE

Already a subscriber? Sign in

independently corroborated Crowdstrike's assessment that Russian hackers infiltrated DNC networks, having found that the two groups that hacked into the DNC used malware and methods identical to those used in other attacks attributed to the same Russian hacking groups.

But some of the most compelling evidence linking the DNC breach to Russia was found at the beginning of July by Thomas Rid, a professor at King's College in London, who discovered an identical command-and-control address hardcoded into the DNC malware that was also found on malware used to hack the German Parliament in 2015. According to German security officials, the malware originated from Russian military intelligence. An identical SSL certificate was also found in both breaches.

The evidence mounts from there. Traces of metadata in the document dump reveal various indications that they were translated into Cyrillic. Furthermore, while Guccifer 2.0 claimed to be from Romania, he was unable to chat with Motherboard journalists in coherent Romanian. Besides which, this sort of hacking wouldn't exactly be outside of Russian norms.

"It doesn't strain credulity to look to the Russians," says Morgan Marquis-Boire, a malware expert with CitizenLab. "This is not the first time that Russian hackers has been behind intrusions in US government, and it seems unlikely that it will be the last." Last year Russian hackers were able to breach White House and State Department email servers, gleaning information even from President Obama's Blackberry.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin has denied Russian involvement in the DNC breach. But the

### Don't miss the future

Subscribe today for unlimited access to WIRED.com.

Plus get the print and digital editions of the  
magazine.

**SUBSCRIBE**

Already a subscriber? Sign in

not disclosed our source, and of course, this is a diversion that's being pushed by the Hillary Clinton campaign."

This is, of course, the same Assange who boasts responsibility for helping find Snowden a home in Russia and Wikileaks publicly criticized the Panama Papers for implicating Putin in financial misdeeds. He's also an outspoken frequent critic of Hillary Clinton's time at the State Department. A damning document dump the weekend before Clinton's nomination arguably aligns with both Russian interests and his own.

If the allegations do prove correct, this is an unprecedented step for Russia. Hacking is nothing new, but publicizing documents to attempt to sway an election certainly is. Putin would clearly prefer a Trump presidency. The billionaire Republican candidate is a longtime admirer of Putin's, and has publicly stated that he wouldn't necessarily defend NATO allies against a Russian invasion. To top it all off, Trump's campaign manager, Paul Manafort, formerly worked as an advisor to Viktor Yanukovich, the Russian-backed President of Ukraine before he was ousted in 2014.

"Don't miss the future. Subscribe today to WIRED.com. Plus get the print and digital editions of the magazine."

### Don't miss the future

Subscribe today for unlimited access to WIRED.com.

Plus get the print and digital editions of the  
magazine.

**SUBSCRIBE**

Already a subscriber? Sign in

SUBSCRIBE

[VIEW COMMENTS](#)

## SPONSORED STORIES

POWERED BY OUTBRAIN



THE DELITE | SCRIPPS

**The Best Song Of All Time Is Mostly Forgotten Today**

**Don't miss the future**

Subscribe today for unlimited access to WIRED.com.

Plus get the print and digital editions of the  
magazine.

**SUBSCRIBE**

[Already a subscriber? Sign in](#)



We Finally Know How Ainsley Earhardt Came to Fox News

## More Stories



CMS MESS

### Hackers Broke Into Real News Sites to Plant Fake Stories

ANDY GREENBERG

**Don't miss the future**

Subscribe today for unlimited access to WIRED.com.

Plus get the print and digital editions of the  
magazine.

**SUBSCRIBE**

Already a subscriber? Sign in

DIY

## How to Make a CDC-Approved Cloth Face Mask

MEDEA GIORDANO AND JEFFREY VAN CAMP



ARE WE THERE YET?

## How to Watch NASA Launch Its New Perseverance Mars Rover

DANIEL OBERHAUS

**Don't miss the future**

Subscribe today for unlimited access to WIRED.com.

Plus get the print and digital editions of the  
magazine.

**SUBSCRIBE**

Already a subscriber? Sign in



ANTITRUST

## Watch Live: Congress' Big Tech CEO Hearing

GILAD EDELMAN

---

## As the US and China Race Toward a Technology Cold War, What Will Keep the Peace?

---

### Don't miss the future

Subscribe today for unlimited access to WIRED.com.

Plus get the print and digital editions of the  
magazine.

**SUBSCRIBE**

Already a subscriber? Sign in

---

OPINION

## The Fantasy and the Cyberpunk Futurism of Singapore

JERRINE TAN

## GET OUR NEWSLETTER

WIRED's biggest stories delivered to your inbox.

### Don't miss the future

Subscribe today for unlimited access to WIRED.com.

Plus get the print and digital editions of the  
magazine.

**SUBSCRIBE**

Already a subscriber? Sign in

SUBSCRIBE

FOLLOW

SUBSCRIBE

ADVERTISE

SITE MAP

PRESS CENTER

FAQ

ACCESSIBILITY HELP

## Don't miss the future

Subscribe today for unlimited access to WIRED.com.

Plus get the print and digital editions of the  
magazine.

**SUBSCRIBE**

Already a subscriber? Sign in

Use of and/or registration on any portion of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#) (updated 1/1/20) and [Privacy Policy and Cookie Statement](#) (updated 1/1/20). [Your California Privacy Rights](#). [Cookies Settings](#) The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of Condé Nast. [Ad Choices](#).

---

## Don't miss the future

Subscribe today for unlimited access to WIRED.com.

Plus get the print and digital editions of the  
magazine.

**SUBSCRIBE**

Already a subscriber? [Sign in](#)