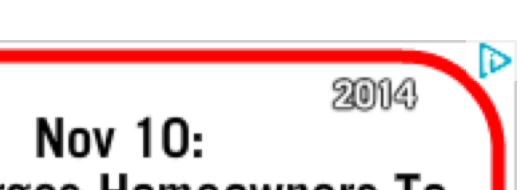


National Security

Hackers breach some White House computers



White House officials said the hackers did not damage any of the systems when they breached the unclassified network, and to date, there is no evidence that the classified network was hacked. (Pablo Martinez Monsivais/AP)

By **Ellen Nakashima** October 28 [Follow @nakashimae](#)

Hackers thought to be working for the Russian government breached the unclassified White House computer networks in recent weeks, sources said, resulting in temporary disruptions to some services while cybersecurity teams worked to contain the intrusion.

White House officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation, said that the intruders did not damage any of the systems and that, to date, there is no evidence the classified network was hacked.

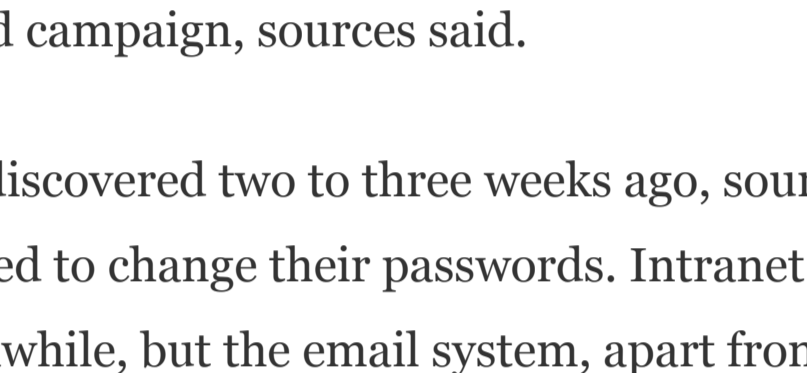
“In the course of assessing recent threats, we identified activity of concern on the unclassified Executive Office of the President network,” said one White House official. “We took immediate measures to evaluate and mitigate the activity. . . . Unfortunately, some of that resulted in the disruption of regular services to users. But people were on it and are dealing with it.”

The FBI, Secret Service and National Security Agency are all involved in the investigation. White House officials are not commenting on who was behind the intrusion or how much data, if any, was taken.

“Certainly a variety of actors find our networks to be attractive targets and seek access to sensitive information,” the White House official said. “We are still assessing the activity of concern.”

U.S. officials were alerted to the breach by an ally, sources said.

Recent reports by security firms have identified cyber-espionage campaigns by Russian hackers thought to be working for the government. Targets have included NATO, the Ukrainian government and U.S. defense contractors. Russia is regarded by U.S. officials as being in the top tier of states with cyber-capabilities.



In the case of the White House, the nature of the target is consistent with a state-sponsored campaign, sources said.

The breach was discovered two to three weeks ago, sources said. Some staffers were asked to change their passwords. Intranet or VPN access was shut off for awhile, but the email system, apart from some minor delays, was never down, sources said.

White House officials said that such an intrusion was not unexpected. “On a regular basis, there are bad actors out there who are attempting to achieve intrusions into our system,” said a second White House official.

“This is a constant battle for the government and our sensitive government computer systems, so it’s always a concern for us that individuals are trying to compromise systems and get access to our networks.”

The Russian intelligence service was believed to have been behind a breach of the U.S. military’s classified networks, which was discovered in 2008. The operation to contain the intrusion and clean up the computers, called [Buckshot Yankee](#), took months.

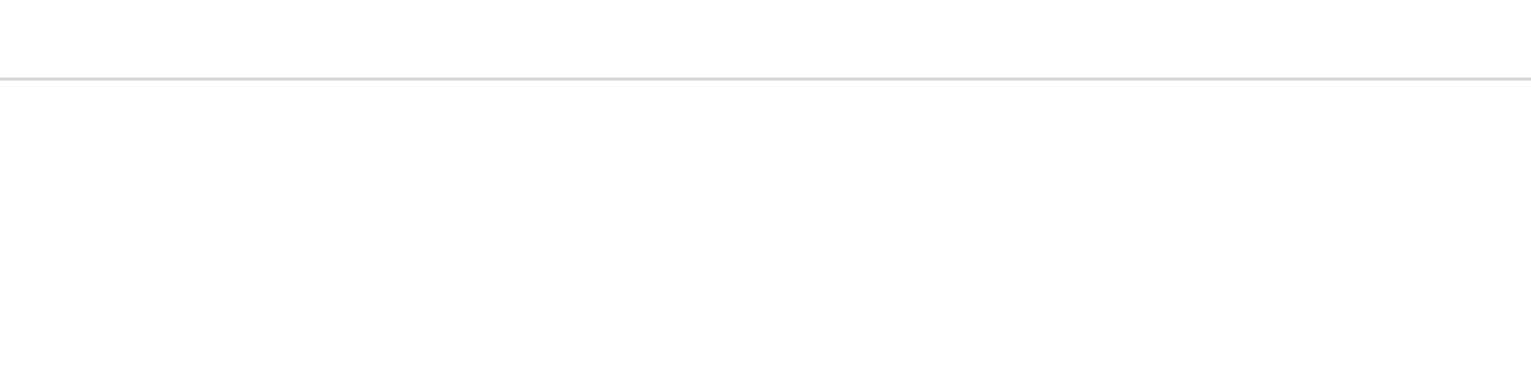
That incident helped galvanize the effort to create U.S. Cyber Command, a military organization dedicated to defending the country’s critical computer systems — including those in the private sector — against foreign cyberattack, as well as helping combatant commanders in operations against adversaries. The command is expected to have some 6,000 personnel by 2016, officials said.

When directed by the president or defense secretary, Cyber Command can undertake offensive operations.

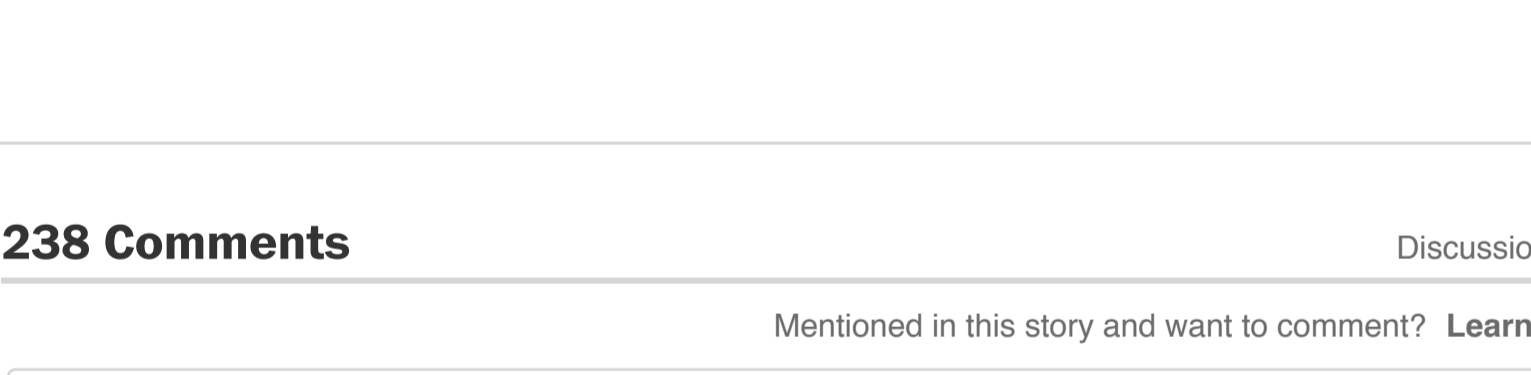


Craig Whitlock contributed to this report.

Ellen Nakashima is a national security reporter for The Washington Post. She focuses on issues relating to intelligence, technology and civil liberties.



238 COMMENTS



238 Comments [Discussion Policy](#)

Mentioned in this story and want to comment? [Learn more](#)

[Please Sign In to Comment](#)

All Comments

Newest First Pause live updates **||**

iodides 10/31/2014 11:48 PM GMT+0800
What comes around, goes around. This administration is the most corrupt and incompetent bunch of narcissistic thugs our nation has ever endured.

Ben Parry 10/31/2014 12:28 AM GMT+0800
Interesting that all these attacks are happening at a time when FBI and NSA are looking for more powers. haha I know...but its just a thought

BubbaGumper 10/30/2014 9:40 PM GMT+0800
Not at all surprising. The Cyber-Security Czar, Michael Daniel, said that Obama appointed publicly bragged about his having NO technical education nor technical background. I believe he stated that this way he wouldn't be distracted. Really? Why is the NSA not being proactive in monitoring our vital areas- White House, military/defense contractors, infrastructure/utilities, just to name a few? Yet the push is for EVERYTHING be connected 24/7. The opportunities for cyber chaos are going to be enormous and with the seemingly daily hacks, one would think the government would take all of this far more seriously.

iodides 10/31/2014 11:50 PM GMT+0800 [Edited]
This is what happens when doltish democrats are more concerned about the war on republicans and libertarians rather than our actual enemies.

sod98 11/2/2014 10:24 AM GMT+0800
When you say real enemies - do you mean US paranoia.

Why does the USA have so many enemies. Why are they involved in the Middle East, Sth and Latin America, Africa and Asia in conflicts and interventions. Why has the USA attacked more than 70 countries since WW2 - more than China, Russia/ USSR combined and a few more countries.

valwayne 10/30/2014 8:00 AM GMT+0800
First the White House and UNLOCKED a door. Now we find that the Russian have hacked White House Computers. The incompetent Obama regime gets absolutely nothing right.

2ndiceberg 10/30/2014 9:27 AM GMT+0800
You have not found out who hacked the computers.

curious3 10/30/2014 7:02 AM GMT+0800
Did they hack Obama Ipad that he insisted on using even though he was warned it couldn't be completely secured? Probably because he need to have his daily Scrabble game with his half-sister in Hawaii per her interview in 2013.

sullivanjm 10/30/2014 7:38 AM GMT+0800
How useless a comment is that. Idiot.

Jim Evans 10/30/2014 10:30 AM GMT+0800
sullivanjm—Why, because you didn't think of it ?

More

Advertisement

NOVEMBER 2014

Nov 10: Obama Urges Homeowners To Switch To A 15 Year Fixed

If you owe less than \$625,000 on your home, use Obama's Refi Program. You'll be shocked when you see how much you can save.

Select Your Estimated Home Value:

Calculate New House Payment

[Lower My Bills.com](#)

Most Read World

- The flying of unauthorized drones at sta...
- To counter rise of Islamic State, Jorda...
- In the UAE, the United States has a quiet, ...
- In Beijing, Obama stresses Am...
- The Berlin Wall fell 25 years ago, but Ger...

Don't miss a single story! **SUBSCRIBE**

The Most Popular All Over

- TIME
Obamacare Site to Open Early to...
- SALON
Man eating nothing but Olive Garden...
- THE DENVER POST
Hochman: Peyton Manning gets the...

Most popular stories from around the web **THE MOST**

Advertisement

READ IT ANYWHERE.

WE WON'T TELL.

Digital subscriptions starting at 99¢

The Washington Post [Try it Now](#)

Our Online Games

Play right from this page

SPIDER SOLITAIRE
Genre(s): Card
Spider Solitaire is known as the king of all solitaire games!

52 CARD PICKUP
Genre(s): Card
Pick up cards as fast as you can!

TRI PEAKS SOLITAIRE
Genre(s): Card
Reveal cards as you clear your way to the top!

Carniball
Genre(s): Arcade
This amusement park classic will bring back some joyous memories

trove trending articles

- 12 British Sayings That Americans Don't Understand
- 7 Signs It's Time to Quit Your Job
- 6 Yogurt Mistakes That Can Make You Gain Weight

washingtonpost.com
© 1996-2014 The Washington Post

- Help and Contact Us
- Terms of Service
- Privacy Policy
- Submissions and Discussion Policy
- RSS Terms of Service
- Ad Choices

Advertisement

Stick a Tile to anything and locate it with your iOS device

tile

Order Now For \$20

2FA One
The #1 deployed CJIS AA Solution! Authentication & SSO in one