



## Are Russian hackers infecting critical infrastructure in Ukraine?

December 30, 2015 By Pierluigi Paganini



The Ukrainian Government is blaming Russians state-sponsored hackers for a number of electricity cut-offs occurred in Western Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Government is suffering a series of power outages in the Western region of the country likely caused by cyber attacks.

The Ukrainian Government believes that the power outages are caused by operations conducted by Russian nation-state actors.

*"hacker attacks by Russia[n] special services".*

According to the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), experts have discovered a malware infecting critical infrastructure of the country, the malicious code targeted networks of some utilities.

The malware infections were observed in concurrent with a "non-stop telephone flood at utility and technical support departments." According to

*“Experts detected virus software was found in some networks, SBU says. The virus attack was timed with nonstop telephone flood at utility plants □ technical support departments.”*

The Security Service of Ukrainian also confirmed □ that its experts reportedly foiled other attacks conducted by Russian hackers. Russian agents attempted to infiltrate computer networks of a □ number of electricity utility companies.

It is not the first time that the Ukrainian Government □ suffers attacks alleged launched by Russian hackers. The number of attacks during the dispute between the two countries on the control of the Crimea.


Last Christmas Eve, infrastructure in the Ukraine suffered numerous power outages that were attributed to cyber attacks operated by Russian hackers.

While the Government of Kiev is blaming Russian hackers, the Russian Government hasn't replied to the accusation. There are also other possible explanations for the numerous power outages, including accidental failures caused by animals and weather conditions.

There are anyway, if confirmed the news of the □ presence of a malware targeting the national infrastructure it is more likely the involvement of a foreign government, but as usually happen in this case the problem of attribution has no simple resolution.

**Pierluigi Paganini**

**(Security Affairs – Information Warfare, Russia, Ukraine, nation-state attacks)**

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### Pierluigi Paganini

Pierluigi Paganini is Chief Information Security Officer at Bit4Id, firm leader in identity management, member of the ENISA (European Union Agency for Network and Information Security) Treat Landscape Stakeholder Group, he is also a Security Evangelist, Security Analyst and Freelance Writer. Editor-in-Chief at "Cyber Defense Magazine", Pierluigi is a cyber security expert with over 20 years experience in the field, he is Certified Ethical Hacker at EC Council in London. The passion for writing and a strong belief that security is founded on sharing and awareness led Pierluigi to find the security blog "Security Affairs" recently named a Top National Security Resource for US. Pierluigi is a member of the "The Hacker News" team and he is a writer for some major publications in the field such as Cyber War Zone, ICTTF, Infosec Island, Infosec Institute, The Hacker News

Magazine and for many other Security magazines. Author of the Books "The Deep Dark Web" and "Digital Virtual Currency and Bitcoin".

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