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8:32 am ET
May 8, 2015 [ASIA](#)

Russia and China Pledge Not to Hack Each Other

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By [OLGA RAZUMOVSKAYA](#)

Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) (L) shakes hands with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping during a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow on May 8, 2015. — Agence France-Presse/Getty Images

MOSCOW—If the U.S. intelligence community believes that [Russia poses a greater cyber spying threat](#) than China, what will it make of this?

Russia and China signed a cyber-security deal on Friday, which experts say could firm up Russia's ties with the east and may become a foundation for binding cyber security ties in the future.

According to the text of the agreement posted on the Russian government's website on Wednesday, Russia and China agree to not conduct cyber-attacks against each other, as well as jointly counteract technology that may "destabilize the internal political and socio-economic atmosphere," "disturb public order" or "interfere with the internal affairs of the state."

The two countries agreed to exchange information between law enforcement agencies, exchange technologies and ensure security of information infrastructure, the document says.

Western sanctions against Russia over the crisis in Ukraine have caused Russian officials to re-evaluate areas of critical dependency on Europe and the U.S., and increasingly turn to the east. Russian lawmakers have also campaigned for tighter control over the Internet following the revelations by former US National Security Agency contractor [Edward Snowden](#). President Vladimir Putin, meanwhile, has called for moving key online infrastructure into Russia from overseas, complaining publicly last year that the Internet

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began as “a CIA project.”

Friday’s agreement is the latest sign that Beijing and Moscow **favor changes to global Internet governance** that would reduce the traditional role of the U.S. Russia is also preparing an action plan in case the Russian segment of the Internet was shut down from the outside, Russian minister of communications Nikolai Nikiforov said last year.

China, meanwhile, this week cited “cyberspace sovereignty” to propose an update to its national security law that would make it illegal to launch network attacks, conduct cyber theft or disseminate material deemed unlawful and harmful.

“For Russia the agreement with China to cooperate on cyber security is an important step in terms of pivoting to the East,” said Oleg Demidov, a cyber-security consultant at the PIR Center, an independent think tank focusing on international security. “The level of cooperation between Russian and China will set a precedent for two global cyber security powers,” Mr. Demidov said.

James Areddy contributed to this report.

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But they will hack the USA!

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ron sefr wrote:

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