

Exclu

Exclu was an encrypted messaging app that was shut down after a series of international raids in February 2023.^[1]

Service

Exclu offered licences for three or six months, for €500 and €900 respectively.^{[1][2]}

History

In 2019 German police raided [CyberBunker](#), which led to them obtaining data needed to decrypt the Exclu services.^[1] Data was shared with other police forces.^{[1][2]}

On 3 February 2023 simultaneous raids took place on properties in [Germany](#), the [Netherlands](#), [Poland](#) and [Belgium](#).^[1] 48 people were arrested, including administrators, developers and users of Exclu.^[1]

Dutch police said that arrests were based on two distinct operations.^[2] The first, called 26Sambar, started in September 2020 and targeted owners and managers of Exclu.^[2] They were suspected of facilitating criminals.^[2] The second, called 26Lytham, began in late April 2022.^[2] This specifically targeted users suspected of being involved in organised crime.^[2]

In February 2023 German police announced that [George Mitchell](#) was one of five major suspects behind the network.^[3]

References

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2. "Dutch police take down Exclu encrypted chat service with 42 arrests, €4 million seized" (<https://nltimes.nl/2023/02/03/dutch-police-take-exclu-encrypted-chat-service-42-arrests-eu4-million-seized>) . *NL Times*. 2023-02-03. Retrieved 2023-02-17.
3. Tallant, Nicola (2023-02-14). "German police target George 'The Penguin' Mitchell in encrypted phone network investigation" (<https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/crime/german-police-target-george-the-penguin-mitchell-in-encrypted-phone-network-investigation>)

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