

# Pegasus Spyware

Pegasus is a highly sophisticated spyware developed by the Israeli cybersecurity firm **NSO Group**. It is designed to infiltrate mobile devices running **iOS and Android** and covertly extract data, monitor communications, and even activate cameras and microphones without the user's knowledge.

## Key Features of Pegasus Spyware

- **Zero-Click Exploits:** Can infect a device without requiring the user to click on a malicious link or take any action.
- **Full Device Access:** Can read messages (even encrypted ones), record calls, track location, and access cameras/microphones.
- **Stealthy Operation:** Leaves little trace, making it difficult to detect and remove.

## How Pegasus Infects Devices

1. **Zero-click vulnerabilities:** Exploiting flaws in apps like iMessage, WhatsApp, or the operating system.
2. **Malicious links:** Sent via SMS, email, or messaging apps.
3. **Network-based attacks:** Can be injected into a device via Wi-Fi or cellular networks.

## Who Uses Pegasus?

NSO Group claims Pegasus is sold **only to governments and law enforcement agencies** to combat terrorism and serious crimes. However, investigations by **Amnesty International, Citizen Lab, and journalists** have revealed its use against:

- **Journalists**
- **Human rights activists**
- **Opposition politicians**
- **Business executives**

## High-Profile Cases

- In 2021, the **Pegasus Project** (a joint investigation by media organizations) revealed that over **50,000 phone numbers** were potential targets of Pegasus spyware.
- **Jamal Khashoggi case:** Saudi dissidents, including those linked to the murdered journalist, were reportedly targeted.
- **World leaders:** Emmanuel Macron (France), Imran Khan (Pakistan), and others were suspected targets.

## How to Protect Against Pegasus

- **Keep devices updated:** Install security patches regularly.
- **Use secure messaging apps:** Signal and other apps with disappearing messages.
- **Reboot regularly:** Some versions of Pegasus are removed after a reboot.
- **Use a secure phone:** Devices like the Purism Librem 5 or GrapheneOS offer better security.
- **Avoid clicking suspicious links**