CYPHER

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	Q	Z	I	$	^	B	A	T	O	M	>	Y	G	<	9	1	X	/

U	V	W	X	Y	Z
R	S	*	!	F	:)

I love cryptology = a mgsi q1f</gmg^f

Super Secret Message: /uqgx u1i zimaqagrx

ESSAY

In 2018, the hotel chain Marriott International discovered that hackers had stolen personal data of 500 million customers over the course of several years. The breach initially occurred on the servers of the Starwood hotels back in 2014. However, after the company was acquired by Marriott in 2016, the same server continued to be used. When Marriott acquired Starwood they didn't notice that there was a Remote Access Trojan on the server that gave the hackers access to customers records which include sensitive information such as credit card numbers and passport numbers.

It isn't clear how the Trojan initially got into the system. Its possible that it was installed through something like a phishing email. But after years of lurking it was finally noticed in 2018 when a program flagged a suspicious request.

Fortunately for the customers, the hackers were part of a Chinese intelligence group trying to get information on US citizens. There are a lot of reasons they would want to spy on the comings and goings of some hotel customers, but they had no interest in the putting the sensitive information they had up for sale.