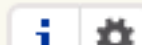


GhostNet 2.0 espionage network uses cloud services



Espionage network [GhostNet](#), first identified about a year ago, is much larger and more sophisticated than previously assumed. This is according to a study entitled "[Shadows in the Cloud](#)", released today (Tuesday) by the Munk Centre for International Studies, the [Information Warfare Monitor](#), the [SecDev Group](#) and the [Shadowserver Foundation](#). GhostNet is essentially a botnet for distributing and controlling spyware.



In March 2009, whilst investigating a computer system belonging to the Tibetan government-in-exile in India, researchers at the Toronto-based Munk Centre for International Studies discovered the largest computer-controlled espionage network ever seen. The network, which they dubbed GhostNet, was controlled almost exclusively by computers located in China and had infiltrated 1,295 computers in 103 countries over a two year period.