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Ukrainian hackers claim takedown of NATO Web sites

A "significant" DDoS attack targeted NATO sites but did not affect the integrity of the organization's systems, a spokesperson says.

by **Steven Musil** @stevenmusil / March 16, 2014 12:05 PM PDT

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An image posted by hacktivist group Cyber Berkut.

Cyber Berkut

Pro-Russian Ukrainian hackers claimed responsibility for a cyberattack that took down several NATO Web sites amid rising tensions over military incursions into the Crimean peninsula.

A hacktivist group calling itself Cyber Berkut claimed to have launched attacks Saturday that took down NATO's **main page** and that of NATO's **cyberdefense center**. The group also claimed to have taken down the site for NATO's Parliamentary Assembly.

NATO spokesperson Oana Lungescu confirmed on Twitter that several NATO sites had been the target of a "significant" distributed-denial-of-service attack but said the integrity of the systems was unaffected and experts were working to restore normal functionality.

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Oana Lungescu
 @NATOPress

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DDoS attack on some #NATO sites ongoing but most services restored. Integrity of NATO data & systems not affected. We continue working on it

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The attacks came on the eve of Sunday's referendum on whether Ukraine's Crimea region should join Russia. The UN Security Council introduced a resolution declaring the referendum invalid, but Russia vetoed the resolution Saturday.

Along with an escalation in cross-border hacking activity, Internet censorship has also seen a recent increase. The Russian government **ordered Russian ISPs to block access** to a handful of Russian Web sites noted for their criticism of President Vladimir Putin and his government.

Tags: Security

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Steven Musil is the night news editor at CNET News. Before joining CNET News in 2000, Steven spent 10 years at various Bay Area newspapers. [E-mail Steven](#). [See full bio](#)

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LMAO. None of NATO's significant operations are ever going to be affected by attacking their public web sites (other than maybe interfering with arranging a public tour). All the operational business of NATO is conducted via secure classified computers.

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dedkola

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So who really are the bad guys here. The Hackees don't have a very noble record of late so chalk one up for the Hackers. I will give my allegiance to those who protect the world



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