Summary of Cyberattack on Ukrainian Power Grid

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According to Tidy (2022), a recent cyber attack was launched against Ukraine's energy grid. Hackers targeted one of Ukraine's largest energy companies, trying to shut down substations, which would have caused blackouts for two million people. It is the most serious cyber-attack so far launched against Ukraine since the Russian invasion. Ongoing cyber conflicts have happened between Ukraine and Russia for over a decade: a cyberattack against the Ukrainian Central Election in 2014; the attack on Ukraine's power grid in 2016 (caused a blackout for 230,000 Ukrainians); and the NotPetya attack in 2017 (caused $10 billions in damage).

* Target: Ukraine's power grid.
* How it worked: Hacker had been able to compromise an unnamed private company responsible for supplying power to two million residents. According to (2), "The hackers planned the electrical outages for 8 April, to strike on Friday evening, before the weekend," Mr. Zhora, deputy chairman of the State Service of Special Communications of Ukraine, said.
* Damage: Due to the response promptly, the attack has been prevented. No physical damage has been disclosed.
* Detection: Detection methods have not been mentioned. However, cyber-security companies Eset and Microsoft take part in identifying and neutralizing the malicious software used in the attack. The collaboration together with Cert-UA, a Ukrainian cyber authority, resulted in the discovery of a new variant of Industroyer malware (codename Industroyer2).
* Perpetrator: Even though Russia denies carrying out the cyber-attacks, both incidents have been blamed publicly by the US and EU on Sandworm (a Russian military group hacker).

References

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