

EDITION: UNITED STATES ▼

THIS ARTICLE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
MAKE IN INDIA

TECHNOLOGY NEWS | Mon Jan 23, 2017 | 6:43am EST

# As attacks grow, EU mulls banking stress tests for cyber risks

LIVE: Tears at JFK Airport: 'You're here now, you're here in America now, it's over' [VIEW MORE](#)

Business

Markets

World

Politics

Tech

Commentary

Breakingviews

Money

Life



A man types on a computer keyboard in Warsaw in this February 28, 2013 illustration file picture. REUTERS/Kacper Pempel/Files

By **Francesco Guarascio** | BRUSSELS

The European Union is considering testing banks' defenses against cyber attacks, EU officials and sources said, as concerns grow about the industry's vulnerability to hacking.

Cyber attacks against banks have increased in numbers and sophistication in recent years, with criminals finding new ways to target banks beyond trying to illicitly obtain details of their customers' online accounts. Last February \$81 million was taken from the Deutsche Bank's central bank funds by hackers, but the bank's systems were not breached.



## TRENDING STORIES

1 **Green card holders included in Trump ban: Homeland Security**

the Bangladesh central bank when hackers broke into its system and gained access to the SWIFT international transactions network.

Global regulators have tightened security requirements for banks after that giant cyber fraud, one of the biggest in history, and in some countries have carried out checks on lenders' security systems.

But complex cyber attacks have kept rising, as revealed in November by SWIFT in a letter to client banks and by the theft of 2.5 million pounds (\$3 million) from Tesco Plc's banking arm in the first mass hacking of accounts at a Western lender.

Banks "are struggling to demonstrate their ability to cope with the rising threat of intruders gaining unauthorized access to their critical systems and data," a report of the European Banking Authority (EBA) warned in December.

The next step from European regulators to boost security could be an EU-wide stress test.

The European executive commission is assessing additional initiatives to counter cyber attacks, a commission official told Reuters. "These include cyber-threat information sharing or penetration and resilience testing of systems."

The European Central Bank announced last year it would set up a database to register incidents of cyber crime at commercial banks in the 19-country euro zone. But exchanges of information among national authorities on cyber incidents remains scant.

The Commission is studying whether EU-wide tests would help step up security, a source at the EU executive said. This would be in addition to controls already carried out by national authorities.

EBA, which is in charge of stress-testing the bloc's banks, is expected to detail in summer the checks it intends to conduct in the next exercise planned in mid 2018.

#### ALSO IN TECHNOLOGY NEWS

**FBI request for Twitter account data may have overstepped legal guidelines**

**Microsoft's market value tops \$500 billion again after 17 years**

EBA tests banks' capital cushions and can conduct checks on specific issues. Last year it monitored risks caused by fines, as EU lenders faced sanctions from U.S. regulators.

An EBA official said cyber security was on the agency's radar but no decision had been made on a possible stress test. The body's chairman, Andrea Enria, has urged EU states to stress-test their financial institutions for cyber risks.

Lloyds Banking Group is working with law enforcement agencies to trace who was behind a cyber attack that caused intermittent outages for customers of its personal banking websites almost two weeks ago, according to a source familiar with the incident. Lloyds said it would not speculate on the cause of the attack. No customers suffered any losses.

- 2 Trump immigrant curbs cause chaos, panic, anger worldwide
- 3 Trump bars door to refugees, visitors from seven mainly Muslim nations
- 4 Iran says to ban U.S. visitors in retaliation to Trump move
- 5 Trump aides divided over policy shielding 'dreamer' immigrants: sources

#### PICTURES



## BLOCKCHAIN

As European banks keep relying on digital infrastructure that is "rigid and outdated", according to EBA, regulators are considering new technologies that could boost security.

Blockchain, the technology behind the most successful virtual currency, Bitcoin, is being closely monitored in Brussels "to establish the advantages and possible risks" but also to weigh possible moves to enable blockchain where it is hindered, the Commission source said.

More than 1 billion euros have been invested in blockchain startups, a World Economic Forum report said.

The EU agency for network and information security (ENISA) said in a report last week the technology offered new opportunities and could cut costs, but may also pose new cyber security challenges, mostly caused by its decentralized network.

### NEXT IN TECHNOLOGY NEWS →

#### Snapchat to reveal financials within a week: sources



Snap Inc, the secretive technology company that owns the popular messaging service Snapchat, is due to reveal its financials within a week as it moves toward its eagerly awaited initial public offering (IPO), sources familiar with the situation said on Friday.

#### Apple strategy in 'smart home' race threatened by Amazon



SAN FRANCISCO - In less than a year, Amazon's combination of the Echo speaker system and the Alexa voice-controlled digital assistant has come close to delivering on the elusive promise of easy-to-use technology that can control gadgets in the home with a few spoken words.

### MORE FROM REUTERS

**Michigan man whose sentence was commuted by Obama killed: media**

**Philadelphia Fox affiliate suspends TV host for Conway remark: media**

**'It's made in Vietnam!' At inauguration, origin of red Trump hats shocks many**

**Bruce Springsteen says the "new resistance" against Trump has begun**

**Republicans to kill U.S. rules on corruption.**

### SPONSORED CONTENT

**With a growing workforce, India may be the next economic powerhouse.** *Capital Ideas*

**Are You Financially Prepared For The Next step?** *LearnVest*

**How To Pay Off \$10,000 of Debt With This 0% Credit Card** *NerdWallet*

**Educate your clients about the latest DOL Fiduciary Rule changes.** *Capital Ideas*

**\$250,000 Term Life Coverage For Less Than \$0.47/Day** *AIG Direct*



### Photos of the week



### SPONSORED TOPICS

- **The U.S. has been a tale of two economies — see the signs of growth.** *Capital Ideas*
- **The Wisest \$500 Investments You Can Make** *NerdWallet*
- **Video Reveals #1 Advantage Billionaires Have Over Average Investors** *TradeWins*
- **\$250,000 in Term Life Coverage Starting at \$14/month** *AIG Direct*
- **Use Disruptive Tech To Sell Your Home Fast** *HomeLight*



environment, labor and guns next week

FROM AROUND THE WEB

Promoted by Taboola

800 Tech Execs Say They're Failing Digital Transformation

MuleSoft

Wall Street Legend Predicts “Dow 50,000!”

Sovereign Investor

Transferring Your Credit Card Balance To a 21-Month 0% APR is Ingenious

CreditCards.com

New Eric Church Dining Room Sets

Rooms to Go

IoT Case Studies: What Worked—And What Didn’t

Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Aging Skin? You Must Try This [Watch]

Dermal Repair Complex Skincare Supplement

Follow Reuters:      

Subscribe: [Feeds](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [Podcasts](#) | [Apps](#)

Reuters News Agency | Brand Attribution Guidelines

Reuters is the news and media division of [Thomson Reuters](#). Thomson Reuters is the world's largest international multimedia news agency, providing investing news, world news, business news, technology news, headline news, small business news, news alerts, personal finance, stock market, and mutual funds information available on Reuters.com, video, mobile, and interactive television platforms. Learn more about Thomson Reuters products:

<b>EIKON</b> Information, analytics and exclusive news on financial markets - delivered in an intuitive desktop and mobile interface	<b>ELEKTRON</b> Everything you need to empower your workflow and enhance your enterprise data management	<b>WORLD-CHECK</b> Screen for heightened risk individual and entities globally to help uncover hidden risks in business relationships and human networks	<b>WESTLAW</b> Build the strongest argument relying on authoritative content, attorney-editor expertise, and industry defining technology	<b>ONESOURCE</b> The most comprehensive solution to manage all your complex and ever-expanding tax and compliance needs	<b>CHECKPOINT</b> The industry leader for online information for tax, accounting and finance professionals
---	---	---	--	--	---



All quotes delayed a minimum of 15 minutes. [See here for a complete list](#) of exchanges and delays.

[© 2017 Reuters. All Rights Reserved.](#) | [Site Feedback](#) | [Corrections](#) | [Advertising Guidelines](#) | [Cookies](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).