

# HACKERS : A 21st CENTURY THREAT

*The story is based on the article from The Hill, « New Hacking efforts show Russia undeterred by US actions », written by Maggie Miller and published in October 25th 2021.*

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**I**nternet is for us what fire has been for cavemen : a revolutionary tool, that has allowed the world to better itself and better conditions of living. Books were replaced by key words that you simply write in the research bar, and here it is : knowledge.

Being aware that you are just a click away from all your desires (you can book a flight, buy a new pair of shoes, order food...) can be as practical as it is dangerous. There is a fine line between what internet allows you to have access to, and what you cannot. Hackers are the snake from the Bible, they attract you, and then there comes the click : you are drowned into the ocean of criminality. Into those dark and deep waters, you can encounter organs sellers, stolen jewellery, procurers, and various other immoral and illegal businesses. It is obvious that the dark web and hacking are inalienable counterparts, since both are illegal.

In June 2021, Russian hackers have intended to infiltrate Microsoft data base, in order to have access to the cloud. The hacking organisation called Nobelium, had all the tools to steal private information, since they had broken into the highly secured virtual system. They aimed at being « piggybacked » (which is like being swallowed, like digestion, or like a virus that spreads through the body) by resellers, and technology service providers, in order to break into their system. As a matter of fact, hacking follows the same process as microbes : they proliferate rapidly and are so numerous that all of them cannot be stopped at a time.

This kind of event has already occurred in December 2020, when Nobelium had managed to get into SolarWind's data base.

The Microsoft attack relied on a basic tactic. It was to break into the technology service providers' system, to have access to their customers' data base, and to finally reach huge firms, of which people are clients. It means that by being customers, they allow their own data base to get associated with the firm's, paving the way for hackers.

Since May, Microsoft has reported that Nobelium has targeted 140 reseller services and has impacted 14.

Their attacks have been more numerous : prior to July 1st 2021, nearly 22,500 attempts of hacking the system had been made. The whole in three years. While from July 1st to October 19th 2021, there has been more than 22,000 attempts. It is considerable.

On October 24th, Microsoft published a report on the group's latest activities. They revealed that the organisation was linked to Russia's foreign intelligence services (SVR). Both the US and Europe have worked hand in hand to face this virtual surveillance. The US are not the only victim, and allies, such as France, the UK, and other superpowers are potential victims.

Nowadays, data surveillance remains a real issue, and no nation is safe.

Microsoft affirms that they have taken new measures regarding security, and have comforted their customers that everything is taken care of by their experts.