

# Links from Russian hackers to the US election

The Central Intelligence Agency concluded that the Russian government deployed computer hackers to help elect Mr Donald Trump.



## Russian government

American intelligence officials said they believed that the hackers were associated with two Russian intelligence agencies.

## STATE-SPONSORED HACKERS

### July 2015

#### Federal Security Service

A hacking group possibly linked to the agency, the main successor to the KGB, entered Democratic National Committee (DNC) servers undetected for nearly a year, security researchers said. The group was nicknamed Cozy Bear, the Dukes or APT 29 for "advanced persistent threat".

### March 2016

#### GRU: Military Intelligence

Investigators believe that the GRU, or a hacking group known as Fancy Bear or APT 28, was the second group to break into the DNC, and it has played a bigger role in releasing the committee's e-mails.

## LEAKERS

### Guccifer 2.0

A self-proclaimed hacker that investigators believe was a group acting as an agent of the GRU. It published documents itself and leaked a series of DNC documents.

### DCLeaks

Investigators say it is a front for the Russian hackers who have tried to disrupt the election. It appeared in June as the release of the stolen Democratic Party documents began.

## PUBLISHERS



### WikiLeaks

The website released about 50,000 e-mails from the DNC's computer servers. It is unclear how WikiLeaks obtained the e-mails. But Russian intelligence agencies are prime suspects, researchers said.

### Media

Dozens of newspapers, radio and television stations, and bloggers around the United States — including The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal — pursued reporting based on the hacked material, significantly increasing the effects of the cyber attack. In some cases, Guccifer 2.0 and DCLeaks took requests from reporters, releasing documents to them directly.

## RESULTS



### Obama weighing public and covert retaliation against Russia

President Barack Obama warned Russian President Vladimir Putin in early September to stay away from the US election. And this month, he ordered intelligence agencies to assemble a "lessons learnt" report before he leaves office on Jan 20. The goal of the report, in part, is to create a comprehensive history of the Russian effort to influence the election. Mr Obama said last Friday that he had refrained from retaliating against Russia's meddling for fear that further hacking would impact vote counting, but is now weighing a mix of public and covert actions against the Russians.



### The leaks cast doubt on the electoral process

According to intelligence officials, the Russians were as surprised as everyone else by Mr Trump's victory. But the leaks disrupted the campaign and undercut confidence in the integrity of the vote.



### House races in a dozen states were affected

Tens of thousands of pages of hacked DNC documents were selectively released by Guccifer 2.0 to political bloggers and newspaper reporters, causing a backlash against Democrats, such as Ms Annette Taddeo, who was running for the House in highly competitive contests.



### The hacked Podesta e-mails dominated news

Weeks before the election, about 60,000 hacked e-mails from the account of Mr John Podesta, Mrs Hillary Clinton's campaign manager, were released in small amounts over many days. They sparked extensive news coverage about the campaign's internal dynamics (as well as fake news stories).



### The leaks fuelled a rift in the Democratic Party

The e-mails forced the resignation of Ms Debbie Wasserman Schultz as chairman of the DNC and added to the divide between supporters of Senator Bernie Sanders and Mrs Clinton's campaign.