

# CyberBerkut

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Published: 2014-04-03 · Archived: 2026-04-05 21:18:47 UTC

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## CyberBerkut



resembles emblem of special police unit "[Berkut](#)"

<b>Formation</b>	c. 2014
<b>Type</b>	<a href="#">Virtual community</a> ; <a href="#">Voluntary association</a>
<b>Purpose</b>	<a href="#">Internet activism</a> ; <a href="#">Internet vigilantism</a>
<b>Region served</b>	<a href="#">Ukraine</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Unknown
<b>Website</b>	<a href="#">cyber-berkut.ru</a> or <a href="#">cyber-berkut.org</a>

**CyberBerkut** ([Russian](#): КиберБеркут, [Ukrainian](#): КіберБеркут) is a modern organized group of pro-Russian [hacktivists](#).<sup>[1]</sup> The group became locally known for a series of publicity stunts and [distributed denial-of-service](#) (DDoS) attacks on Ukrainian government, and western or Ukrainian corporate websites.<sup>[2]</sup> By 2018, this group was accused by western intelligence agencies, such as [National Cyber Security Centre \(United Kingdom\)](#), of being linked to the [GRU](#), providing plausible deniability.<sup>[3]</sup>

The group emerged after the dissolution of [special police force "Berkut"](#) that became notorious for its violent repression used during the [EuroMaidan](#) demonstrations.<sup>[4]</sup> The group is anonymous.<sup>[citation needed]</sup> Their proclaimed goals are fighting against [neo-fascism](#), [neo-nationalism](#) and [arbitrary power](#) in [Ukraine](#).<sup>[citation needed]</sup> To further this aim, CyberBerkut activists targeted the "[Right Sector](#)" IT resources.<sup>[citation needed]</sup> CyberBerkut targets included [NATO](#), and its allies.<sup>[5]</sup>

- Attacks on [NATO](#) websites.<sup>[6][7]</sup>
- Attacks on U.S. [private military companies](#).<sup>[8]</sup>
- Publication of correspondence of deputies of (political parties) [Batkivshchyna](#) and [Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform](#).<sup>[9]</sup>
- Publication of correspondence with the [United States Embassy in Ukraine](#) and United States [foundations](#).<sup>[10]</sup>
- Disclosure to public of telephone recording between [Yulia Tymoshenko](#) and [Nestor Shufrych](#).<sup>[11][nb 1]</sup>
- Disclosure to public of telephone recording between [EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Catherine Ashton](#) and [Foreign Minister](#) of [Estonia Urmas Paet](#).<sup>[13]</sup>
- Blocking [cellular phones](#) of members of the [Yatsenyuk Government](#) and persons close to them.<sup>[14]</sup>
- Blocking Internet resources of Secretary of the [National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine Andriy Parubiy](#) and news portals: LigaBusinessInform and [Ukrainian Independent Information Agency](#).<sup>[15]</sup>
- Publication of video materials that are blocked on [YouTube](#).<sup>[1]</sup>
- Attempts at disrupting the recruitment of the [National Guard of Ukraine](#).<sup>[citation needed]</sup>
- Attempted destruction of the electronic system of the [Central Election Commission of Ukraine](#) prior to the [2014 Ukrainian presidential election](#).<sup>[citation needed]</sup>
- Publishing lists of alleged Ukrainian military deserters<sup>[citation needed]</sup>
- Attempts at disrupting the work of the [Central Election Commission of Ukraine](#) by damaging the IFES system before the elections and blocking cellphones of their organisers.<sup>[16][17]</sup>
- Temporary disruption of the websites of the [Ministry of Internal Affairs](#) and the [General Prosecutor of Ukraine](#). Websites of TV channels [1+1](#) and [Inter](#) were also temporary disrupted <sup>[citation needed]</sup>.
- Email hacking and publication of the conversation between [Ihor Kolomoyskiy](#) and the persecutor of the [Lviv Oblast](#), hacking of the computer and email of a person related to Ihor Kolomoyskiy.<sup>[18][19][20]</sup> Archives of the contents of 89 email accounts of Lviv oblast's prosecutor office employees.
- Hacking and publishing of the Minister of Internal Affairs [Arsen Avakoy](#)'s conversation.<sup>[21]</sup>
- Blocking of the website of the President of Ukraine [Petro Poroshenko](#) on 29 June 2014.<sup>[22]</sup>
- Publication of the real name and biography of [Semen Semenchenko](#) – Konstantin Grishin.<sup>[23]</sup>
- Hacking of the [German Chancellery](#) and the German [Bundestag](#)<sup>[24][5]</sup>
- Hacked U.S. Senator [John McCain](#)'s computers during a visit to Ukraine in 2015 and released a video depicting a fake ISIS beheading video being filmed<sup>[25]</sup>

The group also publishes pro-[Donetsk People's Republic](#) videos.<sup>[11]</sup> In one of them it is claimed that [Ukrainian security forces](#) are living under a "[Jewish](#) occupation".<sup>[11]</sup>

- Repeated blocking of CB's [Facebook](#) pages, although new ones have been made on the following day <sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>.
  - Likely in response to attacking the websites of [Greystone Limited](#) and [Triple Canopy](#), CyberBerkut's websites have been temporarily disrupted. The websites started to work again on the following day.<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>
  - Arrests of people suspected in relation to CyberBerkut.<sup>[26]</sup>
- [Hacktivism](#)
  - [Internet activism](#)
  - [Hacker \(term\)](#)
  - [Denial-of-service attack](#)
  - [Trolls from Olgino](#)
  - [Anonymous \(group\)](#)
1. <sup>^</sup> Tymoshenko claimed that the recording had been deliberately edited to discredit her.<sup>[12]</sup>
  1. <sup>^</sup> [Jump up to: \*a b c d\* Inside a pro-Russia propaganda machine in Ukraine](#), [BBC News](#) (13 November 2017)
  2. <sup>^</sup> ["Ukraine conflict: Hackers take sides in virtual war"](#). *BBC News*. 2014-12-20. Retrieved 2020-10-20.
  3. <sup>^</sup> Sherman, Justin. ["Russia's Cyber Threat to Ukraine Is Vast—and Underestimated"](#). *Wired*. *ISSN 1059-1028*. Retrieved 2022-06-06.
  4. <sup>^</sup> [Ukraine's Berkut police: What makes them special?](#), [BBC News](#) (25 February 2014)
  5. <sup>^</sup> [Jump up to: \*a b\* Wagstyl, Stefan \(7 January 2015\). "Ukraine separatists claim cyber attack on German government sites"](#). *Financial Times*.
  6. <sup>^</sup> ["NATO websites targeted in attack claimed by Ukrainian hacker group Cyber Berkut"](#). *ABC News*. 16 March 2014. Retrieved 18 February 2015.
  7. <sup>^</sup> jenny. ["Ukrainian Hacker Group CyberBerkut Launched a DDoS-attack on NATO"](#). *revolution-news.com*. Archived from [the original](#) on 24 February 2015. Retrieved 18 February 2015.
  8. <sup>^</sup> ["CyberBerkut takes vengeance on American private military com"](#). *Pastebin*. Retrieved 18 February 2015.
  9. <sup>^</sup> ["Anonymous Ukraine Claims to hack and leak secret email conversations of Vitali Klitschko's UDAR party"](#). *HackRead*. 13 February 2014. Retrieved 18 February 2015.
  10. <sup>^</sup> Jeffrey Carr. ["Digital Dao"](#). Retrieved 18 February 2015.
  11. <sup>^</sup> ["Телефонный разговор между Шуфричем и Тимошенко. 18 марта 2014 года в 23:17 по украинскому времени"](#). *YouTube*. 24 March 2014. Retrieved 18 February 2015.
  12. <sup>^</sup> ["Tymoshenko admits speaking to Shufrych, says her words about Russians were edited"](#). *Interfax-Ukraine*. Retrieved 18 February 2015.
  13. <sup>^</sup> [Piret Pernik: teine taktika, sama strateegia](#) (in Estonian)
  14. <sup>^</sup> Eduard Kovacs (17 March 2014). ["Three NATO Websites Disrupted by Ukrainian Hackers of Cyber Berkut"](#). *softpedia*. Retrieved 18 February 2015.
  15. <sup>^</sup> [NATO websites hit in cyber attack linked to Crimea tension](#).
  16. <sup>^</sup> "На сайте проводят регламентные работы технического характера в преддверии дня выборов. Такие работы проводились и ранее, в прошлые выборы. Работы проводятся, чтобы увеличить

