

‘WCry’ Virus Reportedly Infects Russian Interior Ministry's Computer Network

By The Moscow Times

Published: 2017-05-12 · Archived: 2026-04-05 18:20:25 UTC

An unknown number of computers at the Russian Interior Ministry have been infected with a virus that is crippling computers around the world this Friday, according to the news sites Mediazona and Varlamov.ru.

The virus has reportedly infected the Interior Ministry’s internal computer system, though it’s unknown how many machines are affected.

Cyber experts say the Russian government’s computers have likely succumbed to the “WCry” virus (also known by the names “WannaCry” and “WannaCryptor”). This virus encrypts a computer’s files and then charges victims a fee to recover their data.

On May 12, the WCry virus is believed to have infected the British National Health Service, the Spanish telecommunications company Telefonica, and the Russian company Megafon. There are more than 45,000 infected computers around the world, according to the website Intel.malwaretech.com. Most cases so far have been in Russia, Ukraine, and Taiwan.

The Russian online store Svyaznoy told the website Meduza that it is working to keep its computers from being infected by the WCry virus. Representatives from phone service provider Beeline, meanwhile, told Meduza that the company successfully deflected a hacker attack on Friday.

A Message from The Moscow Times:

Dear readers,

We are facing unprecedented challenges. Russia's Prosecutor General's Office has designated The Moscow Times as an "undesirable" organization, criminalizing our work and putting our staff at risk of prosecution. This follows our earlier unjust labeling as a "foreign agent."

These actions are direct attempts to silence independent journalism in Russia. The authorities claim our work "discredits the decisions of the Russian leadership." We see things differently: we strive to provide accurate, unbiased reporting on Russia.

We, the journalists of The Moscow Times, refuse to be silenced. But to continue our work, [we need your help](#).

Your support, no matter how small, makes a world of difference. If you can, please support us monthly starting from just \$2. It's quick to set up, and every contribution makes a significant impact.

By supporting The Moscow Times, you're defending open, independent journalism in the face of repression. Thank you for standing with us.

\$10 / month

\$15 / month

Other

Continue



Not ready to support today?

Remind me later.

Source: <https://themoscowtimes.com/news/wcry-virus-reportedly-infected-russian-interior-ministrys-computer-network-57984>