

LockBit leader unmasked and sanctioned

By cms-user26

Archived: 2026-04-05 21:45:04 UTC

A leader of what was once the world's most harmful cyber crime group has been unmasked and sanctioned by the UK, US and Australia, following a National Crime Agency-led international disruption campaign.



The sanctions against Russian national Dmitry Khoroshev (pictured), the administrator and developer of the LockBit ransomware group, are being announced today by the FCDO alongside the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs.

Khoroshev, AKA LockBitSupp, who thrived on anonymity and offered a \$10 million reward to anyone who could reveal his identity, will now be subject to a series of asset freezes and travel bans.

US partners have also unsealed an indictment against him and are offering a reward of up to \$10m for information leading to his arrest and/or conviction.

The actions targeting Khoroshev form part of an extensive and ongoing investigation into the LockBit group by the NCA, FBI, and international partners who form the Operation Cronos taskforce.

LockBit provided ransomware-as-a-service (RaaS) to a global network of hackers or 'affiliates', supplying them with the tools and infrastructure to carry out attacks.

[In February the NCA announced](#) that it had infiltrated the group's network and taken control of its services, including its leak site on the dark web, which compromised the entire criminal enterprise.

The true impact of LockBit's criminality was previously unknown, but data obtained from their systems showed that between June 2022 and February 2024, more than 7,000 attacks were built using their services. The top five countries hit were the US, UK, France, Germany and China.



Pictured: the NCA took control of the group's services including its leak site on the dark web

Attacks targeted over 100 hospitals and healthcare companies and at least 2,110 victims were forced into in some degree of negotiation by cyber criminals.

The group has attempted to rebuild over the last two months, however the NCA assesses that as a result of this investigation, they are currently running at limited capacity and the global threat from LockBit has significantly reduced.

LockBit have created a new leak site on which they have inflated apparent activity by publishing victims targeted prior to the NCA taking control of its services in February, as well as taking credit for attacks perpetrated using other ransomware strains.

Data shows that the average number of monthly LockBit attacks has reduced by 73% in the UK since February's action, with other countries also reporting reductions. Attacks appear to have been carried out by less sophisticated affiliates with lower levels of impact.

As well as uncovering the real-world identity of LockBitSupp, the Operation Cronos investigation has given the NCA and partners a deep insight into LockBit's operations and network.

Of the 194 affiliates identified as using LockBit's services up until February 2024:

- 148 built attacks.
- 119 engaged in negotiations with victims, meaning they definitely deployed attacks.
- Of the 119 who began negotiations, there are 39 who appear not to have ever received a ransom payment.
- 75 did not engage in any negotiation, so also appear not to have received any ransom payments.

The graphic features a dark blue background with the text 'IDENTITY REVEAL' in large white letters, framed by a green L-shaped border. Below this, the LockBit logo is shown in red and white, followed by the text 'LockBitSupp is:' in white. The name 'Dmitry Yuryevich Khoroshev' is written in large, bold, green letters. Two photographs of the individual are displayed side-by-side: a selfie on the left and a professional portrait on the right. At the bottom, a row of logos from various law enforcement agencies is shown, including NCA, EUROPOL, ROCU, METROPOLITAN POLICE, LITIE, Kanton Zürich, Bundeskriminalamt, Bundespolizei, SH, and POLIISI.

This means up to 114 affiliates paid thousands to join the LockBit programme and caused unknown levels of damage, meaning they will be targeted by law enforcement, but never made any money from their criminality.


Active affiliate numbers have also significantly reduced, to 69, since February.

The NCA uncovered numerous examples of attacks where the decryptor provided by LockBit to victims who had paid ransoms failed to work, and where they received no support from affiliates or LockBit, further highlighting their untrustworthiness.

In one affiliate attack against a children's hospital in December 2022, LockBitSupp issued an apologetic statement on their leak site and confirmed it had provided the decryptor to the victim for free.



It said the attacker had "violated our rules", had been blocked and was no longer in their affiliate programme. In fact, they remained an active LockBit affiliate up until the February 2024 disruption, with NCA analysis showing they went on to build 127 unique attacks, engage in 50 negotiations with victims and received multiple ransom payments.

Finally, as was established by investigators, LockBit did not routinely delete stolen data once a ransom was paid.



Operation Cronos

Affiliate ID and usernames

User ID

login

****NEW** since Feb 24**
Now with surnames!

1	admin	70	Dwayne	139	Hutton	1	admin
2	Harold	71	Dustin	140	uluulu	2	Terry Ryan
3	Beverley	72	Jody	141	Norman	3	Richard Campbell
4	Jaye	73	Frankie	142	Terell	4	Steven Vega
5	Finn	74	Aric	143	Powerful	5	William Guzman
6	Aston	75	Vinnie	144	Billie	6	David Ramsey
7	Maximus	76	Bradly	145	Corrie	7	Michael Phillips
8	Denise	77	Kurt	146	Raleigh	8	Phillip Watson
9	John	78	Wynne	147	Marley	9	Howard Collins
10	Kelsie	79	Kameron	148	Darwin	10	Russell Price
11	Ramsey	80	Godfrey	149	Russel	11	Kenneth Nelson
12	Vern	81	Rawley	150	Daron	12	Glen Ortega
13	Mayer	82	Quinnton	151	Zohan	13	Ramon Keller
14	Devyn	83	Brett	152	Weldon	14	Nathan Davis
15	Burton	84	Torey	153	Chris	15	Kelly Bryant
16	Ardell	85	Ronal	154	Reinhold	16	William Brown
17	Harley	86	Dayton	155	Roscoe	17	Robert Hansen
18	Chad	87	Niko	156	Kelton	18	Nicholas Walker
19	Truman	88	Nicholas	157	Bretton	19	James Holland
20	Ramzi	89	Mickey	158	Burdette	20	Douglas Baker
21	Harper	90	Gannon	159	Kendel	21	John Caldwell
22	Harlow	91	Beckett	160	Jake	22	James Wright
23	Bart	92	Clifton	161	Pax	23	Nelson Martin
24	Kennan	93	Edsel	162	Katlin	24	Walter Hughes
25	Melville	94	Emory	163	Ashton	25	Robert Allen
26	Rubert	95	Berton	164	Oswin	26	Rodney Peterson
27	Bailey	96	Wilford	165	Allyson	27	Matthew Perez
28	Rich	97	Hayes	166	Falcon	28	Jose Nicholas
29	Leeland	98	Ricardo	167	Corvin	29	Raymond Alexander
30	Brian	99	Cooper	168	Gunther	30	Louis Nelson
31	Charly	100	Wyman	169	Hillis	31	Bobby Terry
32	Oscar	101	Travion	170	Davy	32	James Ramirez
33	Lyndsey	102	Rupert	171	Washington	33	Charles Malone
34	Oliver	103	Jeffrey	172	Reymond	34	Jason Townsend
35	Sherwin	104	Shepard	173	Stevenson	35	James Craig
36	JohnRembo	105	Williams	174	Arron	36	John Thompson
37	Darrel	106	Perry	175	Braxton	37	James Gonzalez
38	Taylor	107	Merle	176	Rani	38	Samuel Sullivan
39	Rayce	108	Neely	177	Dominic	39	Nathan Brown
40	Larry	109	Oakley	178	Silvester	40	David Reyes
41	Skylor	110	Jordi	179	Johnatan	41	John Wright
42	Rufus	111	Gerry	180	Delos	42	Vincent Hart
43	Ashlin	112	teststealergate2	181	Hideo	43	Jon May
44	Perri	113	teststealergate3	182	Avraham	44	Samuel Hamilton
45	Sage	114	Neal	183	Anders	45	Larry Diaz
46	BillieOLDDDDD	115	Paygost	184	Barrington	46	Richard Lynch
47	Corbin	116	Chargost	185	Takashi	47	Bryan Stokes
48	Davidson	117	teststealergate4	186	Jan	48	Christopher White
49	Bayard	118	teststealergate5	187	Benicio	49	Antonio Jenkins
50	Boyce	119	teststealergate6	188	Valentino	50	Herbert Smith
51	Malin	120	teststealergate1	189	Daniel	51	Bryan McBride
52	Stanton	121	Gerald	190	Charler	52	Timothy May
53	Carlo	122	Rimral	191	Charlieson	53	Pedro Williams
54	Alston	123	Tezriedil	192	Arlieerys	54	Ruben Lawrence
55	Merrick	124	Tahabo	193	Charow	55	Mark Allen
56	Kirby	125	Command	194	Sailor	56	Michael Woods
57	Keanan	126	federalstvavaiskolen			57	William Williams
58	Huntley	127	Deric			58	Arthur Stephens
59	Jeffry	128	Tommy			59	Stanley Chavez
60	Everlie	129	AlphaKiller			60	James Murphy
61	Alton	130	dududu			61	Carlos George
62	Coleton	131	Jordan			62	Willie Ferguson
63	Claudio	132	pentestululu			63	Michael Hill
64	Libby	133	Greg			64	Norman Jones
65	Hazel	134	Aver			65	Daniel Bell
66	Dorian	135	Mymw			66	Philip Taylor
67	Rigby	136	Ward			67	Gerald Potter
68	Payden	137	Guardian			68	Albert Brown
69	Hadley	138	Rodman			69	Robert Martinez

NCA Director General Graeme Biggar said: “These sanctions are hugely significant and show that there is no hiding place for cyber criminals like Dmitry Khoroshev, who wreak havoc across the globe. He was certain he could remain anonymous, but he was wrong.

“We know our work to disrupt LockBit thus far has been extremely successful in degrading their capability and credibility among the criminal community. The group’s attempt at rebuilding has resulted in a much less

sophisticated enterprise with significantly reduced impact.

“Today’s announcement puts another huge nail in the LockBit coffin and our investigation into them continues. We are also now targeting affiliates who have used LockBit services to inflict devastating ransomware attacks on schools, hospitals and major companies around the world.

“Working with our international partners, we will use all the tools at our disposal to target other groups like LockBit, expose their leadership and undermine their operations to protect the public.”

Sanctions Minister, Anne-Marie Trevelyan said: “Together with our allies we will continue to crack down on hostile cyber activity which is destroying livelihoods and businesses across the world.

“In sanctioning one of the leaders of LockBit we are taking direct action against those who continue to threaten global security, while simultaneously exposing the malicious cyber-criminal activity emanating from Russia.”

Security Minister Tom Tugendhat said: “Cyber criminals think they are untouchable, hiding behind anonymous accounts as they try to extort money from their victims.

“By exposing one of the leaders of LockBit, we are sending a clear message to these callous criminals. You cannot hide. You will face justice.”

The NCA and international partners are now in possession of over 2,500 decryption keys and are continuing to contact LockBit victims to offer support. The Agency has so far proactively reached out to nearly 240 LockBit victims in the UK.

Public reporting is absolutely vital in supporting global law enforcement to tackle ransomware effectively. If you are in the UK, you should use the Government’s [Cyber Incident Signposting Site](#) as soon as possible, for direction on which agencies to report your incident to.

The Operation Cronos taskforce includes the NCA, the South West Regional Organised Crime Unit (SWROCU), and Metropolitan Police Service in the UK; FBI and the Department of Justice in the US; Europol, Eurojust, and law enforcement partners in France (Gendarmerie), Germany (LKA and BKA), Switzerland (Fedpol and Zurich Cantonal Police), Japan (National Police Agency), Australia (Australian Federal Police), Sweden (Swedish Police Authority), Canada (RCMP), and the Netherlands (National Police - Politie).

This operation was also supported by the National Bureau of Investigation in Finland.

07 May 2024

Source: <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/lockbit-leader-unmasked-and-sanctioned>