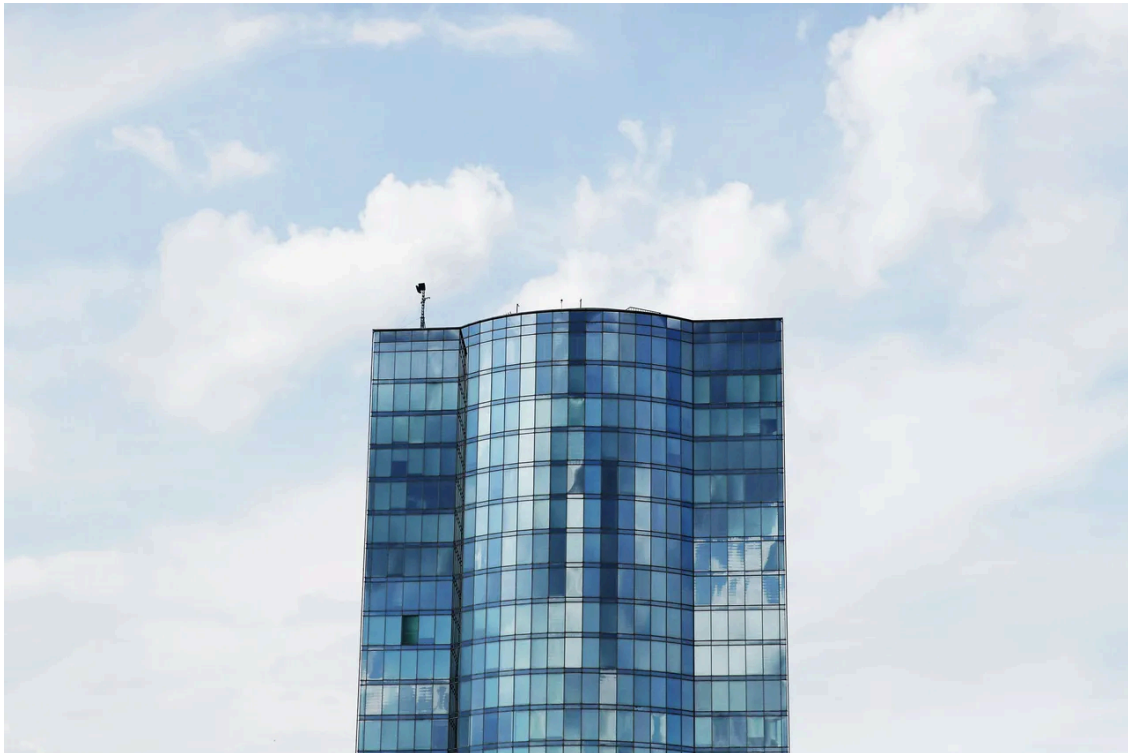


# US Indicts Sandworm, Russia's Most Destructive Cyberwar Unit

By Andy Greenberg

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The Department of Justice has named and charged six men for allegedly carrying out many of the most costly cyberattacks in history.



The GRU building known as the Tower, in the Moscow suburb of Khimki, where Sandworm operates. Photograph: Maxim Shemetov/REUTERS/Alamy

Nearly half a decade ago, the Russian hackers known as [Sandworm](#) hit Western Ukraine with the [first-ever cyberattack to cause a blackout](#), an unprecedented act of cyberwar that turned off the lights for a quarter million Ukrainians. They were just getting started. From there Sandworm embarked on a years-long spree of wantonly destructive attacks: another [blackout attack on the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv in 2016](#), the [release of the NotPetya worm in 2017](#) that spread globally from Ukraine to cause \$10 billion in damage, and a [cyberattack that temporarily destroyed the IT backend of the 2018 Winter Olympics](#) in South Korea, among others.

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[Andy Greenberg](#) is a senior writer for WIRED covering hacking, cybersecurity, and surveillance. He's the author of the books *Tracers in the Dark: The Global Hunt for the Crime Lords of Cryptocurrency* and *Sandworm: A New Era of Cyberwar and the Hunt for the Kremlin's Most Dangerous Hackers*. His books ... [Read More](#)

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