



Foreign Interference

PROF RM DOVER

Warnings from history



THESAURUS/ RUBICON

ECHELON

SNOWDEN AFFAIR (see also Dunhammer)

(Common factors – cooperation, hegemonic capability, technical and human frailties)

Operation Dunhammer

A legacy of the Snowden revelations.

Demonstrated that Danish officials had cooperated with NSA, using Xkeystore to intercept and read the communications of European politicians, travelling through underwater cabling (passing through a Danish routing station).

Whilst prominent and very public, the Danes are part of a wide community of European intelligence nations to have done the same (trade-offs, access to useful intelligence, liaison etc).



Pegasus

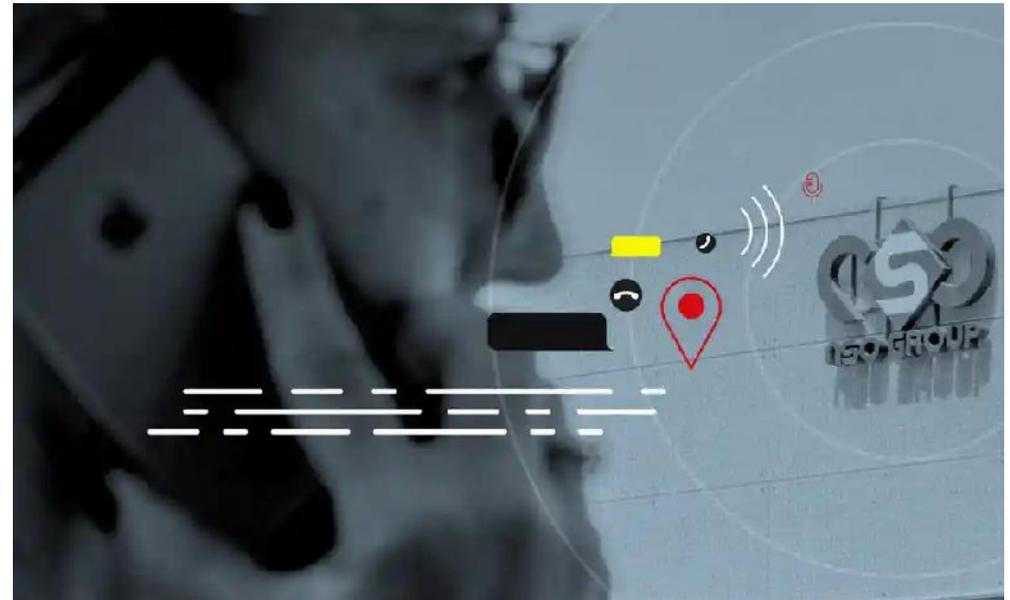
'Over the air exploit' – non-click intrusion. Bypasses encryption through control of the device.

Commercial software, sold to governments.

Leaked information is suggestive of large scale intrusion into the devices of journalists, advisors, politicians. (Although denied by the designers).

Early iterations known from 2016. Failure to close exploit (historically this has been a pragmatic choice).

Relies upon a technical exploit – human frailty is not such a large element here. Albeit users over-trusting their devices.



APT31

Presumed to be a Chinese state operation, but with allies.

Using a mesh of compromised devices

Presumed to be an attack on intellectual property (so meeting the Chinese government's ambitions for accelerated development).

But could be deployed against other types of targets (eg communications, universities, government officials)

Relies upon technical and human vulnerabilities



Mitigations

Challenges:

Those interfering are highly capable
(technical challenge)

EU Members keep 'cheating'...

Cheating relies upon tensions between
short-long term pay-offs.

(Disincentivise cheating through the creation
of an alternative hegemonic option.)

Divergent strategic priorities / divergent IOs.

Opportunities:

Without the UK there are more opportunities
to coordinate.

Strong R&D base and economy to improve
capabilities (but does rely upon common
disposition, and CI).

With cautious countermeasures heightened
private sector involvement?

Reduction in corpus of classified
information?