

## Active APT groups in Germany

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Cyber attacks that are not financially motivated but pursue strategic goals are usually not isolated individual events. Instead, there are long-term, persistent threat actors who repeatedly attack specific targets. The threat actors thus shape the threat situation. Since these attacker groups pursue certain strategic goals, the threat situation becomes to a certain extent easier to explain than if it were purely opportunistic random events. Knowing the threat actors and their current targets allows IT security teams to better assess the risk profile of their own company or institution.

On this page, the BSI presents the threat actor groups that have been active against targets in Germany in the last two years, or that have attacked targets in other European countries that could also have been attacked in Germany in a similar manner. The following table lists the threat actors' name with aliases, the sectors in which the threat actor is active and, if relevant, special characteristics that can facilitate detection or incident handling.

Institutions that have already implemented basic IT security measures can use this list to prioritize their own threat intelligence research.

The sources for the list are diverse, for example detections in government networks, incidents from BSI incident handling, as well as reports from partners and victims. The list is not necessarily complete, for example if confidentiality agreements exist at the request of victims or sources. In addition, there should be a certain number of unreported cases, the more professional and secretive the threat actors are. Especially in the case of advanced attackers, detection can be made more difficult and attribution to a named threat actor can remain unclear, which means that the corresponding attacks do not appear in the list.

Since the strategic goals and missions of threat actors change over time, the list is not static, but will be updated depending on the BSI's assessment.

### Active APT groups that attack targets in Germany:

Threat actor and alias	Sectors, according to German WZ 2008	Characteristics
APT15 Vixen Panda / Mirage / Ke3chang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community</li></ul>	The threat actor uses its own relay network of compromised routers and VPN servers.

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APT28 Fancy Bear / Sofacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of services to the community as a whole</li> <li>• Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community</li> </ul>	<p>APT28 uses a variety of attack vectors, e. g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlook-vulnerability CVE-2023-23397 (via email)</li> <li>• WinRAR-vulnerability CVE-2023-38831 (via email-attachment)</li> <li>• Bruteforcing and password-spraying against internet-facing servers Outlook-Schwachstelle CVE-2023-23397 (via E-Mail)</li> </ul>
APT29 Cozy Bear / Nobelium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of services to the community as a whole</li> <li>• Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community</li> </ul>	<p>APT29 often uses legitimate cloud services as control servers, in order to blend into legitimate network traffic.</p>
APT43 Velvet Chollima / Kimsuky	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and experimental development on social sciences and humanities</li> <li>• Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community</li> <li>• Higher education</li> </ul>	<p>The threat actor engages in social engineering and initially sends several emails without malicious code until the recipient has built up trust. Only then will malicious code or a phishing link be delivered.</p>
Bitter / Hazy Tiger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of services to the community as a whole</li> </ul>	<p>Attack vector usually are CHM- or RAR-attachments.</p>
Cosmic Wolf / Sea Turtle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer programming, consultancy and related activities</li> </ul>	<p>The threat actor may compromise a supply-chain entity first, in order to gather information for follow-up attacks on the intended targets.</p>
Earth Estries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• unknown</li> </ul>	
Gamaredon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of services to the community as a whole</li> </ul>	<p>The threat actor continually registers a large number of phishing-domains and sets up new servers.</p>
Ghostwriter / UNC1151	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• unspecified</li> </ul>	<p>The threat actor targets private email-accounts at commercial webmail-providers via spearphishing.</p>

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Labyrinth Chollima Lazarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer programming, consultancy and related activities</li> </ul>	The attacks are usually targeted against <u>V.P.N.</u> - and other internet-facing systems.
Mirage Tiger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community</li> </ul>	
Mustang Panda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community</li> </ul>	
Outrider Tiger Fishing Elephant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community</li> </ul>	
Red Dev 61 / UTA0178 / UNC5221	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community</li> </ul>	
RomCom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community</li> </ul>	
Salted Earth / Sturgeon Fisher / Yoro Trooper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• unknown</li> </ul>	
Sharp Panda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community</li> </ul>	
Snake / Venomous Bear / Turla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community</li> </ul>	

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Storm-0558	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and experimental development on social sciences and humanities</li> </ul>	The threat actor uses their own VPN-networks in order to obfuscate their attack traffic.
Viceroy Tiger / Donot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of services to the community as a whole</li> <li>• Administration of the State and the economic and social policy of the community</li> </ul>	
Winter Vivern / TAG-70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and experimental development on social sciences and humanities</li> </ul>	
UAC-0050	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of services to the community as a whole</li> </ul>	The threat actor sends ZIP-archives as email attachments, containing the publicly available malware Remcos.

**Furthermore, BSI observes the following threat actors because of their activity in partner countries:**

- APT30 / Naikon
- APT31 / Judgment Panda
- Gallium / Softcell / Phantom Panda / Alloy Taurus / Granite Typhoon