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Hack Suggests New Scope, Sophistication for Cyberattacks

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December 18, 2020



Suspected Russian hack involving SolarWinds software that compromised parts of the U.S. government was executed on a scale that has surprised even veteran security experts



Hackers compromised widely used software made by SolarWinds, an Austin, Texas, firm.
Kris Tripplaar/Sipa/Associated Press

By [Dustin Volz](#)

and [Robert McMillan](#)

Updated Dec. 17, 2020 10:35 pm ET

The suspected Russian hack that compromised parts of the U.S. government was executed with a scope and sophistication that has surprised even veteran security experts and exposed a potentially critical vulnerability in America's technology infrastructure, according to investigators.

As the probe continues into the massive hack—which cast a nearly invisible net across 18,000 companies and government agencies—security specialists are uncovering new evidence that indicates the operation is part of a broader, previously undetected cyber espionage campaign that may stretch back years.

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