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Hackers Lurked in SolarWinds Email System for at Least 9 Months, CEO Says

WSJ [wsj.com/articles/hackers-lurked-in-solarwinds-email-system-for-at-least-9-months-ceo-says-11612317963](https://www.wsj.com/articles/hackers-lurked-in-solarwinds-email-system-for-at-least-9-months-ceo-says-11612317963)

February 3, 2021



A suspected Russian cyberattack of the federal government has breached at least six cabinet-level departments. WSJ's Gerald F. Seib explains what the hack means for President Joe Biden's national security efforts. Photo illustration: Laura Kammermann (Originally Published Dec. 23, 2020)

By [Robert McMillan](#)

Feb. 2, 2021 9:06 pm ET

The newly appointed chief executive of SolarWinds is still trying to unravel how his company became a primary vector for hackers [in a massive attack](#) revealed last year, but said evidence is emerging that they were lurking in the company's Office 365 email system for months.

The hackers had accessed at least one of the company's Office 365 accounts by December 2019, and then leapfrogged to other Office 365 accounts used by the company, Sudhakar Ramakrishna said in an interview Tuesday. "Some email accounts were compromised. That led them to compromise other email accounts and as a result our broader [Office] 365 environment was compromised," he said.

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