

## NEWS

# Foreign Minister Zaoralek says Czech hack attack bigger than thought

The Czech foreign minister says hackers attacked his email and the accounts of dozens of departmental officials over a period of several months. That means the hack was much larger than originally acknowledged.



Czech officials believe that over the course of at least a year hackers from abroad stole 7,100 diplomatic documents and cracked 168 email accounts. On Thursday, two weeks after officials discovered the theft, Foreign Minister Lubomir Zaoralek declined to give specifics about the data stolen and whom he suspects of conducting the attack. He said hackers had worked on their mission for at least a year but had not managed to steal any sensitive information.

"That's a lie, and a I must emphatically reject it," Zaoralek told a press conference on Thursday. "As I have said, the ministry's internal system, which works with strategic information that is sensitive from the viewpoint of the security state, was not assaulted," he said. Zaoralek acknowledged that hackers might have stolen information personally sensitive to him.

The foreign minister called the cyberattack sophisticated and compared it to 2016's hacking of Democratic Party documents in the United States, an assault blamed on [Russia](#), which US officials believe sought to throw the presidential election to [Donald Trump](#). Russian officials have called media reports that the Kremlin was involved "a baseless fantasy."

The hackers appear to have stolen documents that originated from IP addresses in Russia, the United Kingdom, Germany and within the Czech Republic. Those included documents related to negotiations, the EU military commission and ambassador appointments.

mkg/jm (EFE, dpa, AP)

## DW RECOMMENDS

## Steinmeier hopes for swift clarity from US on fresh NSA allegations

Germany's foreign minister has called on Washington to swiftly clarify what is and is not true regarding the latest NSA snooping allegations. There are reports that it spied on several cabinet ministers. (03.07.2015)

## Czechs get new PM as Zeman appoints Social Democrat Sobotka

The Czech president has appointed Bohuslav Sobotka prime minister. The move opens the possibility for the country to form a centrist Cabinet in the coming days. (17.01.2014)

## Russian President Putin in Budapest to discuss sanctions, energy

Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban has said his country wants to protect its economic links with Russia. Talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin focused on trade and energy, as well as EU sanctions against Moscow. (02.02.2017)

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### Germany's BND spooks get new mission plan

Germany's equivalent of the CIA, the Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND), has been given a new set of tasks - three years too late. But whether or not they will have to counter Russian election hacking remains speculation. (01.02.2017)

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### Just how far will the nativist vote get Trump and the AfD?

Donald Trump's anti-foreigner campaign has US voters wondering - and worrying - just how far he might go. The Alternative for Germany is banking on similar sentiments to score it several seats in the Bundestag next year. (29.10.2016)

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