

SAFEGUARDING THE PUBLIC

Pro-Ukraine Individuals and Businesses at Increased Risk for Online Russian Influence and Surveillance Campaigns

THREAT: Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has raised the online risk to Ukrainian diaspora members, critics of the Putin regime, and other individuals and businesses who support Ukraine and the Ukrainian government. Russian intelligence services and their partners and proxies have advanced cyber capabilities that provide an easy vector to monitor and launch cyber-attacks against individuals and businesses. Russia has also used online platforms to influence people and groups by spreading disinformation about its war in Ukraine. Below are recommended actions to increase your online awareness and safeguard your activities. Business owners can find additional information on strengthening cybersecurity defenses in the White House Fact Sheet "Act Now to Protect Against Potential Cyber Attacks".

RISKS

- » Online monitoring
- » Spreading disinformation in the United States to discredit legitimate grievances and sow distrust between members of at-risk groups
- » Influencing vulnerable people and groups to adopt positions that are favorable to Russia

MITIGATIONS

- » Limit sharing of personal information
- » Beware of unsolicited interest in personal views about the invasion
- » Set social media accounts to private
- » Avoid posting information on social media sites that could reveal personal information and location
- » Do not click on suspicious emails and links as they may be spearphishing efforts intended to harvest credentials or deploy malware
- » Avoid public Wi-Fi and use Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) on your devices whenever possible
- » Verify the legitimacy of charitable foundations to avoid sharing financial and payment information with malign actors
- » Verify the legitimacy of social media information as well as groups, personas, and online publications claiming to represent at-risk groups
- » Beware of online personas who ask you to lobby on behalf of Russia or exhibit an unusual interest in your ties to Ukraine or Russia



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