

[Sign in / Create an account](#)[PC](#) [PS4](#) [PS5](#) [Xbox One](#) [Switch](#) [Digital Foundry](#) [News](#) [Reviews](#) [Videos](#) [Features](#) [Guides](#)Search Highlights [Deals](#) [Forum](#) [Release dates](#) [Apex Legends Season 6 time](#) [Flight Simulator Xbox release](#) [Where to buy all the Mario Lego sets](#)

Microsoft leaves Window open

Microsoft's own internal network has been infiltrated by hackers, who may have gained access to the Windows source code

News by Gestalt, Contributor

27 October 2000

Source - BBC News

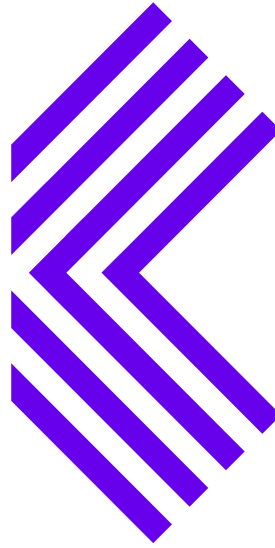
Reports are emerging in America that Microsoft has been the victim of a hacker attack. Nothing new there perhaps, but what is worrying is that the hackers have apparently had access to Microsoft's own internal network for as long as three months, including (according to rumours) the source code for products such as Microsoft Windows and Office. Microsoft are refusing to confirm what (if anything) was stolen or modified, and are calling the attack "a deplorable act of industrial espionage". At this early stage though it looks more likely that a group of rogue hackers were responsible, rather than another software development company.

Either way, if those responsible did get hold of the source code for some of Microsoft's utilities and operating systems, the consequences could be massive. Not only could they produce their own modified versions of Windows, but they may be able to use the code to find more back doors in the already leaky operating system, and could even have inserted their own code into the source stored on Microsoft's network, potentially forcing the company to go through it with a fine-toothed comb looking for any malicious code. Products which could have been compromised include the recently released Windows ME and beta versions of Microsoft's next operating system, code-named Whistler.

The really embarrassing part of the story for Microsoft though is that their network was compromised by the well-known QAZ trojan, an annoying "worm" which has infected my own system in the past, and can open up your system to outside users. The virus is easily detected and cures are available, with most virus detection companies describing it as a low or medium risk now, so it's rather worrying that Microsoft were infected so easily and then failed to spot the problem for three months. In fact, Microsoft only noticed that their network had been compromised when they discovered that passwords were being sent to an e-mail account in St Petersburg, Russia...

Sometimes we include links to online retail stores. If you click on one and make a purchase we may receive a small commission. For more information, go [here](#).

[Jump to comments \(0\)](#)



[FIND OUT MORE](#)

12-20

SEPTEMBER

2020

THE WORLD'S
LARGEST DIGITAL
GAMES EVENT

New games | Panels | Let's Plays | Industry Insight | Esports tournaments | Livestreams Tabletop gaming | Exclusive merch | More!

About the author



[Gestalt](#)

Contributor



Related

[Essential Microsoft Flight Simulator review - a sim for everyone, and one of the best sims yet](#)

Flight of fancy.

[187](#)

[Ghost of Tsushima is getting online co-op multiplayer](#)

Friends with better hilts.

[41](#)

[Feature Command & Conquer Remastered Collection was a success - so what's next for the revived RTS franchise?](#)

We speak to the EA producer spearheading the project to find out.

[28](#)

[Epic injunction says it'll be "irreparably harmed" by Apple's actions following Fortnite stunt](#)

Claims Unreal Engine will be affected too.

[45](#)

[Florida tourist attraction sues Fortnite, seeks removal of in-game castle](#)

Offishal summons.

[39](#)

You may also enjoy...

[Firewatch is taking another stab at a film adaptation](#)

Branching out.

[1](#)

[Golf Story follow-up Sports Story delayed indefinitely](#)

To "ensure that everything makes it into the game".

[Epic injunction says it'll be "irreparably harmed" by Apple's actions following Fortnite stunt](#)

Claims Unreal Engine will be affected too.

[46](#)

[Spelunky 2 arriving on PC "a few weeks" after PlayStation 4 version](#)

Miner delay.

[5](#)

[Ghost of Tsushima is getting online co-op multiplayer](#)

Friends with better hilts.

[41](#)

Comments (0)

Comments for this article are now closed. Thanks for taking part!

Hide low-scoring comments

Order

Threading

There are no comments on this article.

Subscribe to The Eurogamer.net Daily

The 10 most popular stories of the day, delivered at 5pm UK time. Never miss a thing.

Bad puns and video games since 1999.

This site © 2020 Gamer Network Limited. All Rights Reserved. No part of this site or its content may be reproduced without the permission of the copyright holder.

Site version

Mobile

Portable

Desktop

Explore

- [PC](#)
- [PS4](#)
- [PS5](#)
- [Xbox One](#)
- [Switch](#)
- [Digital Foundry](#)
- [News](#)
- [Reviews](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Features](#)
- [Guides](#)
- [Authors](#)
- [GameDB](#)

Helpful links

- [Staff](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Corporate site](#)
- [Policy centre](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [RSS](#)
- [Cookie Settings](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Cookie Policy](#)
- [California Privacy Notice](#)

Across Europe

- [Eurogamer.cz](#)
- [Eurogamer.de](#)
- [Eurogamer.es](#)
- [Eurogamer.it](#)
- [Eurogamer.net](#)
- [Eurogamer.nl](#)
- [Eurogamer.pl](#)
- [Eurogamer.pt](#)
- [RockPaperShotgun.de](#)

Gamer Network

- [Cosplay Central](#)
- [Dicebreaker](#)
- [EGX](#)
- [GamesIndustry.biz](#)
- [Jelly Deals](#)
- [Metabomb](#)
- [Nintendo Life](#)
- [Pure Xbox](#)
- [Push Square](#)
- [Rock, Paper, Shotgun](#)
- [USgamer](#)
- [VG247](#)
- [VGC](#)

Sign in

Username

Password

Connect with Facebook

Connect with Facebook

New in town?

[Create an account](#)

[Forgotten your details?](#)