Russiaâ??s Vast Cyber Web Enables Deniability And Obscurityâ??But Not Without Risks

Description

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Describing every cyber operation coming from within Russia as a â??Russian cyberattackâ?• obscures the large, complex, and often opaque web of different cyber actors in Russiaâ??each with varied relationships with the state. As I describe in a new Atlantic Council report, there are cybercriminals operating at the stateâ??s direction, cybercriminals operating with state protection, patriotic hackers encouraged by propagandistic statements on television, front companies set up by the security services, and everything in between. Untangling this web shows many perceived and actual benefits for the Kremlin, such as deniability and obscurityâ??but it also underscores the risks Putin is running by leaning too heavily on this diverse cyber ecosystem.

This Irregular Warfare Initiative article was originally posted through our partner organization, the Modern War Institute at West Point. Continue reading the full article here.

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