

# 'Innocent mistake': UK's Nuclear Weapons Web Data Routed Through Ukraine

By [RT](#)

Global Research, March 16, 2015

[RT](#)

Region: [Europe](#)

*Sensitive data from around 170 major companies, including the UK's Atomic Weapons Establishment and Lockheed Martin, might have been compromised after British Telecom web traffic was accidentally rerouted through Ukraine.*

The hijacking of the companies took place over a 90-minute period Thursday, while many British Telecom customers experienced diverted traffic for five days, starting from Saturday, Dyn, Internet performance company, said in a report.

Several UK government bodies were affected by the problem, including the Royal Mail and the country's Atomic Weapons Establishment, which is "responsible for the design, manufacture and support of warheads for the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent."

UK traffic diverted through Ukraine included nuclear weapon maker AWE  
<http://t.co/Df15sVUsDg> [pic.twitter.com/8BvpsbwR6w](http://pic.twitter.com/8BvpsbwR6w)

— Dyn Research (@DynResearch) [March 13, 2015](#)

Such companies as Wal-Mart, Lockheed Martin, Virgin Money, Marks and Spencer, Hitachi, Toshiba and others also saw their data rerouted.

It is impossible to tell if any information was lost or compromised, with the traffic flow over the networks most likely being encrypted.

According to Dyn, the sensitive data was put at risk as routing is based "entirely on trust, it's relatively easy to commandeer IP address space that belongs to someone else."

"Unnecessarily sending the data to Kiev may have made it possible for employees with privileged network access to Ukrainian telecom provider Vega to monitor or tamper with data that wasn't encrypted end-to-end using strong cryptography," Dan Goodin, Ars Technica Security editor, wrote on his blog.

The redirection was caused by a bad route announced by the Ukraine's Vega telecom, Doug Madory, Dyn's director of internet analysis, told Tech News Today website.

"At this point, I have to believe this was an innocent mistake by Vega, but it's concerning nonetheless," Madory said.

The traffic was rerouted through Vega due to the company being the sole reseller of British

Telecom services in Ukraine since 2013.

It's not the first time Dyn has discovered an instance of so-called "route hijacking" as company reported of data from Western network service providers and financial institutions being sent through Belarus and Iceland in 2013.

The original source of this article is [RT](#)

Copyright © [RT](#), [RT](#), 2015

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [RT](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)