

Department of Homeland Security Bans

Kaspersky Products for Governmental Use

After an NSA security breach and the revelation of links between Kaspersky Labs and the Russian Government, the Department of Homeland Security has issued a Binding Operational Directive (text linked below) banning the use of Kaspersky products within the United States Federal Executive Branch. There is information below, please take precautions and follow the advice of the Department of Homeland Security

What this means

It has been determined that Kaspersky Labs is linked, at least indirectly, with cyber-espionage activities sponsored by the Russian government. This means that its products cannot be trusted to handle any sensitive information, at the government or personal level. Please check that your anti-virus and security software at home is not Kaspersky, and find a new provider if it is. If your network uses I.T. Right for its anti-virus and security, you don't need to make changes, since

I.T. Right does not use Kaspersky products. Our management console, which includes anti-virus and patching, is run by an American company named Solar Winds. They are based out of Austin, Texas, and any components in their systems not created in the United States were developed in EU member states. We have always done our best to use American-based hardware and software, and are especially selective when it comes to our security software.



From the Department of Homeland Security's Binding Operational Directive

"The BOD calls on departments and agencies to identify any use or presence of Kaspersky products on their information systems in the next 30 days, to develop detailed plans to remove and discontinue present and future use of the products in the next 60 days, and at 90 days from the date of this directive, unless directed otherwise by DHS based on new information, to begin to implement the agency plans to discontinue use and remove the products from information systems." Click on the seal for the full BOD.

Nature of the Links

Kaspersky Labs' headquarters in Moscow (pictured below) house a large amount of the company's servers. In order to have internet access and do business, Kaspersky Labs must utilize telecommunications companies that are required by Russian law to grant full access to Russian intelligence agencies. This was the cause of a 2015 NSA security breach, during which sensitive files were stolen from the personal computer of an NSA employee who was using Kaspersky security software.

