

Iran acknowledges cyberattacks on government departments

15 October 2020

Iran's cybersecurity authority acknowledged cyberattacks on two governmental departments this week, state media reported Thursday.

The cyberattacks occurred Tuesday and Wednesday and were under investigation, the state-owned IRAN daily newspaper said.

While the report did not say which government departments were targeted, it called the attacks "important" and said some other departments temporarily took down their [online services](#) as a precaution against further attacks.

The brief report did not blame any group or country for the attacks.

Iran occasionally says it has thwarted cyberattacks on its infrastructure, although it has disconnected much of its infrastructure from the internet after the Stuxnet computer virus, widely believed to be a joint U.S.-Israeli creation, disrupted thousands of Iranian centrifuges in the country's nuclear sites in the late 2000s.

In December, Iran said it halted a massive cyberattack on unspecified "electronic infrastructure" but provided no specifics on the purported attack.

Last year, Washington officials said that U.S. military cyber forces launched a strike against Iranian military computer systems, as President Donald Trump backed away from plans for a more conventional military strike in response to Iran's downing of a U.S. surveillance drone in the strategic Persian Gulf.

Tensions have escalated between the U.S. and Iran since Trump in 2018 withdrew America from Iran's [nuclear deal](#) with world powers and began a policy of "maximum pressure" on Tehran.

Tensions rose further after a U.S. airstrike killed a

top Iranian general at Baghdad's airport in January. Iran retaliated with a ballistic missile strike on Iraqi bases housing American troops, wounding dozens of U.S. troops.

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