

Russian Investigators Buy Chinese Technology for Cell Phone Surveillance

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Russia's Investigative Committee has reportedly bought Chinese surveillance equipment allowing it to hack into thousands of cell phone models, including Apple and Android devices.

The Investigative Committee has previously [reported](#) on using foreign-made spy gadgets, including an Israeli device for data extraction from smartphones. Russian security forces are currently engaged in a legal dispute with the Telegram messaging app for access to users' encrypted messages.

Related article: [Police Can Confiscate Phones Without a Criminal Prosecution](#)

According to procurement data, investigative offices in Siberia and the Far East signed deals last month to buy two Chinese-made Forensic Magicube portable cell phone scanners, BBC Russia [reported](#) Monday.

The Magicube is reportedly able to access Telegram, Skype and Viber message history; acquire Facebook and Twitter data; and break into Apple and Android devices.

Expert Express, the Investigative Committee's provider, boasted of the device's ability to crack an iPhone 7 or 8 in less than 10 minutes, BBC Russia reported.

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