

CYBER ATTACKS, MAJOR THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES AGAINST STATES, ORGANIZATIONS AND CITIZENS

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***Abstract:** The author briefly tries to bring to the attention of those interested the complex issue developed globally on cyber risks, threats and vulnerabilities reaching to the "cyber warfare" with direct involvement of some state actors. Some means and vectors of attack are presented, as well as countermeasures to protect the individual users, companies, governmental and military structures. In the end, the article presents the situation in Romania with respect to some measures already taken and others that will be probably taken in the future, particularly in the legislative and administrative sector regarding cyber protection.*

***Keywords:** cyber-attacks, cyber warfare, brief history, cyber vulnerabilities and threats, NATO, EU.*

Many Romanian and foreign authors approached and are still approaching, particularly following year 2005, the complex topic of cyber-attacks made by individual actors and newly by state actors interested, from different reasons, in disorganizing the informational systems of the adversaries, stealing sensitive information, getting important material benefits, or seriously damaging the functioning of some vital public systems such as: medical, financial-banking, civilian and military communications, military command and control, as well as systems of complex weapons, of utilities (electrical power, natural gases, water pipes, transport networks) and vectors as mass-media and cultural institutions.

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