

The G7 24/7 Cybercrime Network

History and Functioning

History of the Network

- Meeting of the G7 (G8) Justice and Home Affairs Ministers - December 1997 called for creation of a network
 - “With regard to high-tech crime, we must start by recognizing that new computer and telecommunications technologies offer unprecedented opportunities for global communication. As nations become increasingly reliant upon these technologies, including wireless communications, their exploitation by high-tech criminals poses an ever-greater threat to public safety.”
 - Statement of Principles included
 - No safe havens
 - Investigation and Prosecution must be coordinated among all concerned States

1997 Action Plan

- “Use our established network of knowledgeable personnel to ensure a timely, effective response to transnational high-tech cases and designate a point-of-contact who is available on a twenty-four hour basis.”
- “Review our legal systems to ensure that they appropriately criminalize abuses of telecommunications and computer systems and promote the investigation of high-tech crimes.”
- “Continue to examine and develop workable solutions regarding: the preservation of evidence prior to the execution of a request for mutual assistance; transborder searches; and computer searches of data where the location of that data is unknown.”

The G7 24/7 Network was Created (1998)

- Point to point network for urgent assistance in cybercrime matters
 - Single, English-speaking point of contact (POC)
 - Available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week
 - POC should be knowledgeable in cybercrime matters
- Primary purpose of the Network is to preserve data for subsequent transfer through mutual legal assistance channels
 - Described in the past as a “fast freeze and a slow thaw”

G7 24/7 Network Protocol

- The G7 24/7 points of contact are provided for investigations involving electronic evidence that require urgent assistance from foreign law enforcement. High-tech crimes raise new challenges for law enforcement. In investigations involving computer networks, it is often important for technically literate investigators to move at unprecedented speeds to preserve electronic data and locate suspects, often by asking Internet Service Providers to assist by preserving data. Therefore, to enhance and supplement (but not replace) traditional methods of obtaining assistance, the G7 has created the Network as a new mechanism to expedite contacts between Participating States or other autonomous law enforcement jurisdictions of a State (hereinafter referred to as “Participants”).

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How the Network Works

- Law enforcement agents seeking assistance from a foreign Participant may contact the 24-hour point of contact in their own state or autonomous law enforcement jurisdiction, and this domestic point of contact will contact his or her counterpart in the foreign Participant. Participants in the Network have committed to make their best efforts to ensure that Internet Service Providers freeze the information sought by a requesting Participant as quickly as possible. Participants have further committed to make their best efforts to produce information expeditiously. This is subject to the understanding that a requested Participant's legal, technical or resource considerations may affect the extent to which - and the time frame within which - the Participant may produce evidence, as well as the process of Mutual Legal Assistance, by which the requesting country seeks release of that information through the usual MLAT or Letters of Request procedure.”

A Steadily Growing Network

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- From a small group of countries in 1998 to 89 countries worldwide today.



A Network More Active Than Ever

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- As an example - in 2020 the United States had received 1281 incoming requests through the 24/7 Network
- The United States had made 719 outgoing requests to other countries in that same time period



Thank you

Rick Green

U.S. Department of Justice

ICHIP The Hague

Chair, G7 High Tech Crime Subgroup

richard.green@usdoj.gov