



AFRICA CENTER
FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

Africa's Cyber Threat Landscape



Image source: <https://allonline365.com/africas-economic-strategy-for-digital-transformation/>

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Emerging Security Sector Leaders Program
June 2023

Impact through Insight

Structure of Presentation

What is “Cyberspace” and Why Does it Matter?

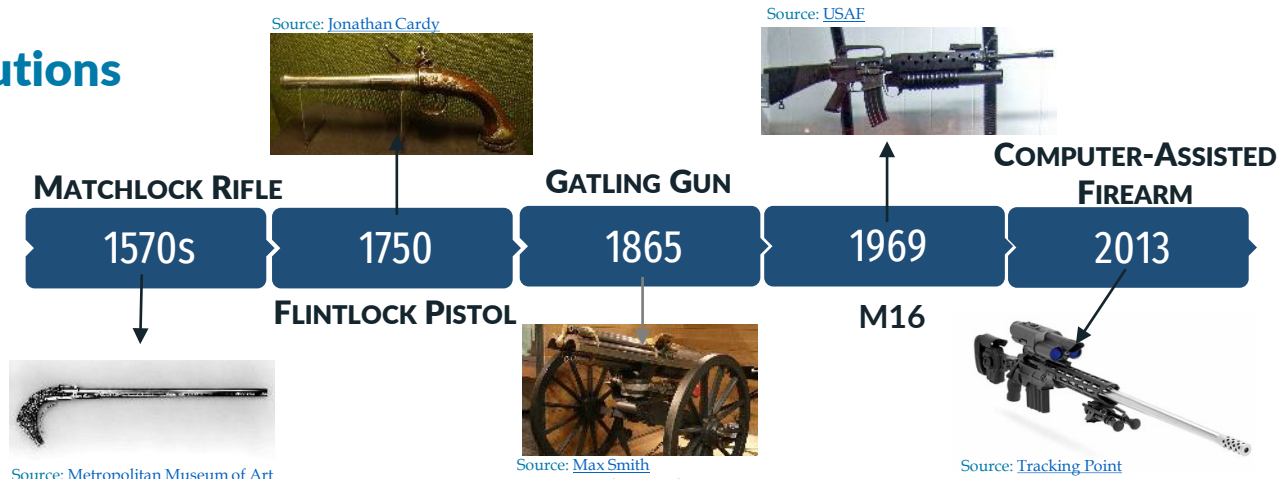
Africa’s Cyber Threat Landscape

Implications for Security Actors

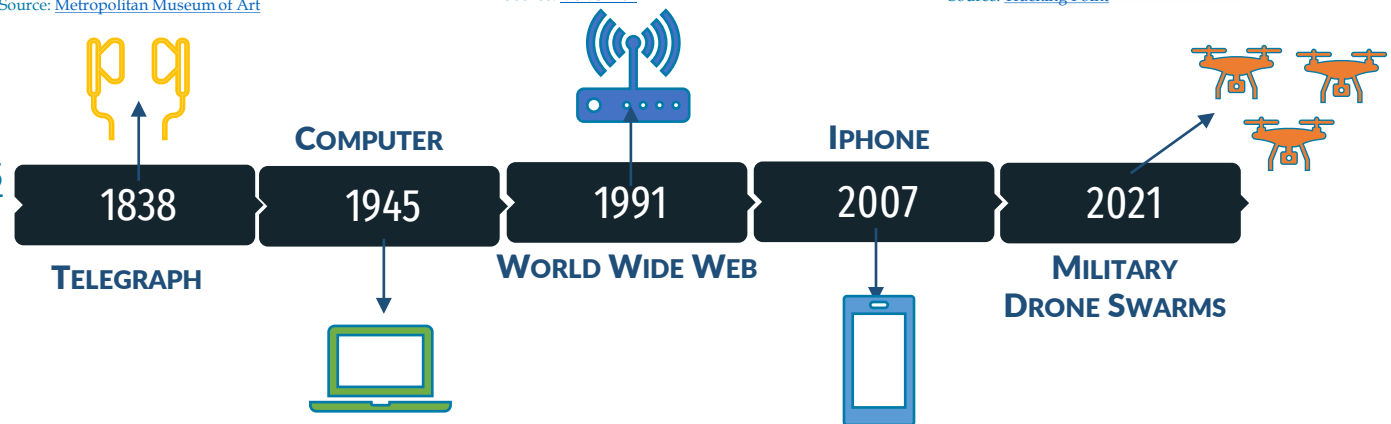
Evolutions in Communications and Firearms Technologies

Timeline of Evolutions in...

FIREARMS:



COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY:



Defining Cyberspace

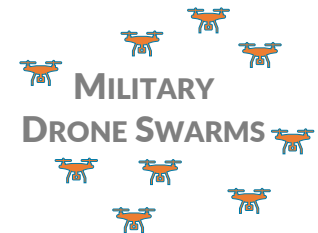


IMPROVISED
EXPLOSIVE
DEVICES



OPEN SOURCE
INTELLIGENCE

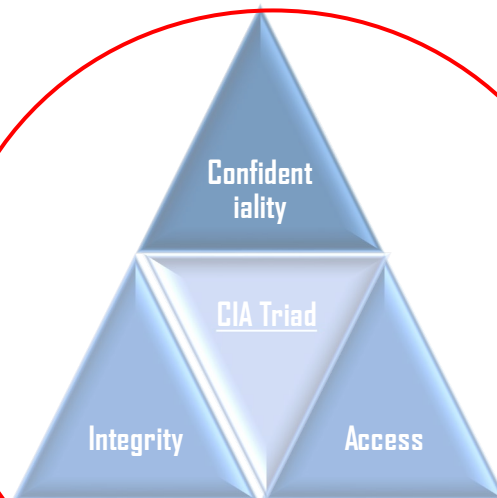
INFORMATION
OPERATIONS



MILITARY
DRONE SWARMS

Cyber-enabled
threats

Information Security



Cybersecurity

Africa's Evolving Cyber Threats

Figure 5: Cyber Threat Framework and African Cases

Threat	Definition	Cases Used
Organized Crime	Criminal enterprises that profit from illicit activities through cyber-enabled means.	Silver Terrier Business Email Compromise Network
Critical Infrastructure Sabotage	Attempts to weaken or destroy national, government or military infrastructure, hardware, or systems.	Horus Group's Cyberattack Against Ethiopia Transnet Ransomware Attack
Espionage	Attempts to penetrate a system for the purposes of extracting sensitive or protected information.	China's Attack on the African Union Pegasus Malware
Armed Conflict Innovation	The use of cyber-enabled technology to facilitate organized violence through changes in external communications, international organization, and combat operations.	Libyan Drone War Al-Shabaab and Twitter
Disinformation	Intentional dissemination of false information with the intent of advancing a political objective	Russian Disinformation and Troll Farming Campaigns

Threat 1: Organized Crime

How missed 'red flags' helped Nigerian fraud ring 'Scattered Canary' bilk Washington's unemployment system amid c

May 24, 2020 at 6:00 am | Updated June 4, 2020 at 6:18 pm

By Jim Brunner 🐦, Paul Roberts 🐦 and Patrick Ma
Seattle Times staff reporters

From no-reply@esd.wa.gov ☆
Subject Your Benefit Rights and Responsibilities
To [REDACTED] ☆

Your responsibilities as an unemployment claimant

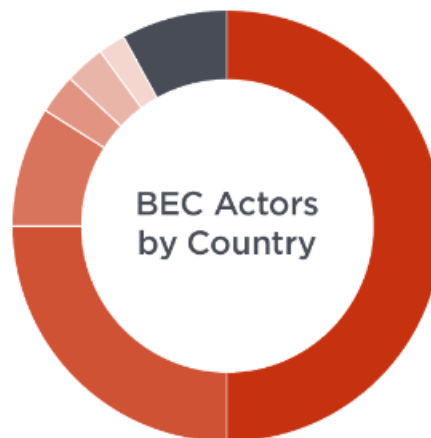
You're responsible for understanding this important information.

Don't reply to this email! We won't receive it.

If you have questions, log into eServices and go to your outbox to submit a question or call the claims center at 800-318-6022.

How much you'll be paid

Your claim is based on all your work and earnings from 10/1/2018 to 9/30/2019. We estimate that you may be eligible to receive \$790 each week for up to 26 weeks, for a total of up to \$20540.



Nigeria	50%	
United States	25%	
South Africa	9%	
United Kingdom	3%	
Canada	3%	
United Arab Emirates	2%	
Other	8%	

Source: Craine Hassold, Agari (<https://www.agari.com/email-security-blog/covid-19-unemployment-fraud-cares-act/>)

Threat 2: Critical Infrastructure Sabotage

 **Sli Masikane** @Sli_Masikane · Jul 22

BREAKING #TransnetHack I've been reliably informed that Transnet systems have been hacked. All employees received this communication to shutdown all laptop and desktops and not to not access their emails.

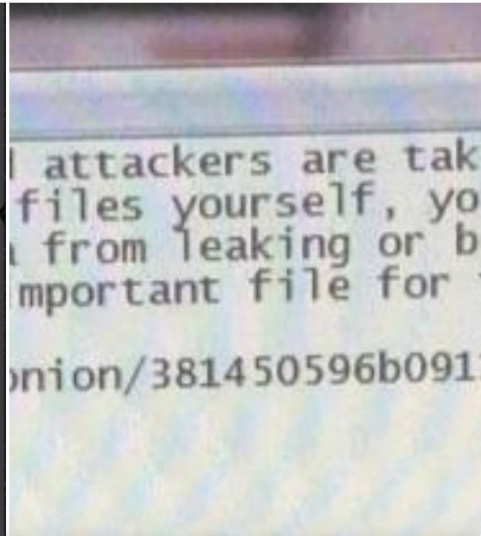
#eNCA

Also DO NOT access emails on your phones until further notice.

No MS Teams meetings until further notice

12:32

Good Morning All. Urgent message from ICTM. Transnet systems have been hacked and compromised. Please disconnect from the Transnet network immediately until advised otherwise. This impacts remote access via APN/VPN (3g or home Wifi) or direct access via LAN if you are in the office. This will also include



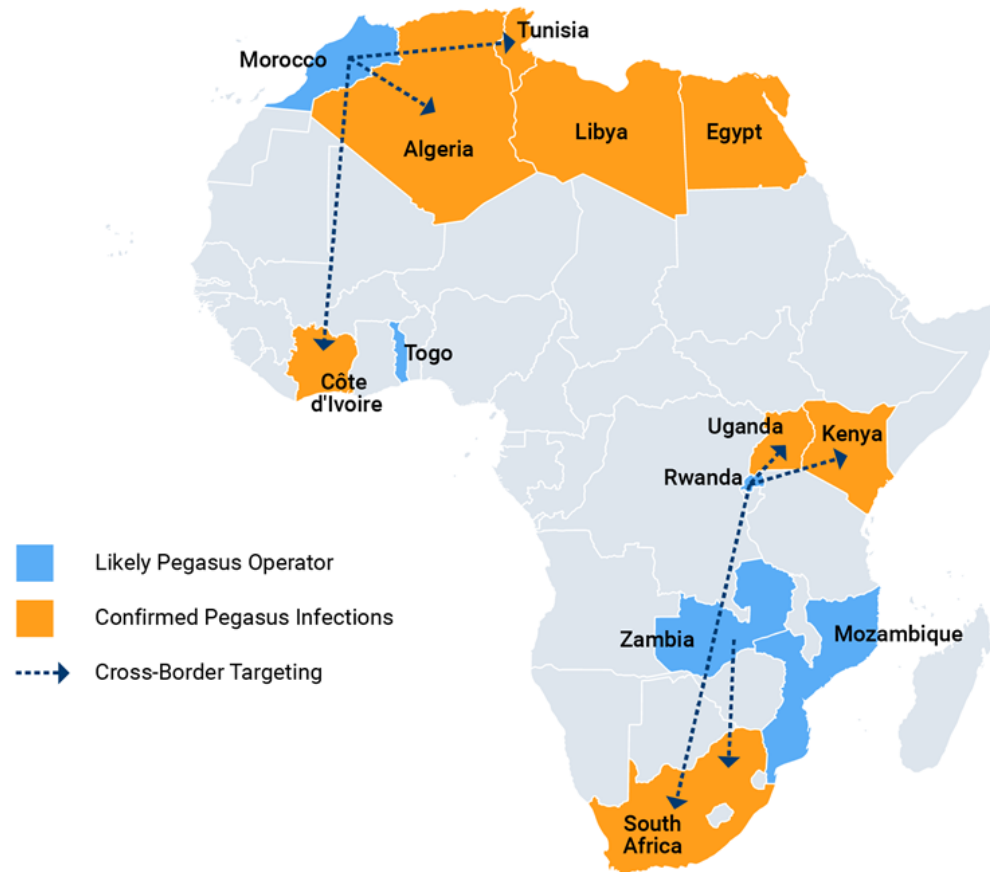
#Transnet Port Attack



Source: Bloomberg/Getty Images

Threat 3: Cyber Espionage

Infections, users, and cross-border targets of Pegasus malware in Africa.



Source: Reporting and data compiled from Citizens Lab and the Pegasus Project.



Threat 4: Armed Conflict Innovation



HSM Press Office @HSM_PR 3h

Here are 2 of the Mujahideen inside #Westgate mall, unruffled and strolling around the mall in such sangfroid manner
pic.twitter.com/bMG87AQOon

[View photo](#)



HSM Press Office @HSM_PR 3h

The hostages who were being held by the Mujahideen inside #Westgate are still alive, looking quite disconcerted but, nevertheless, alive

[Expand](#)



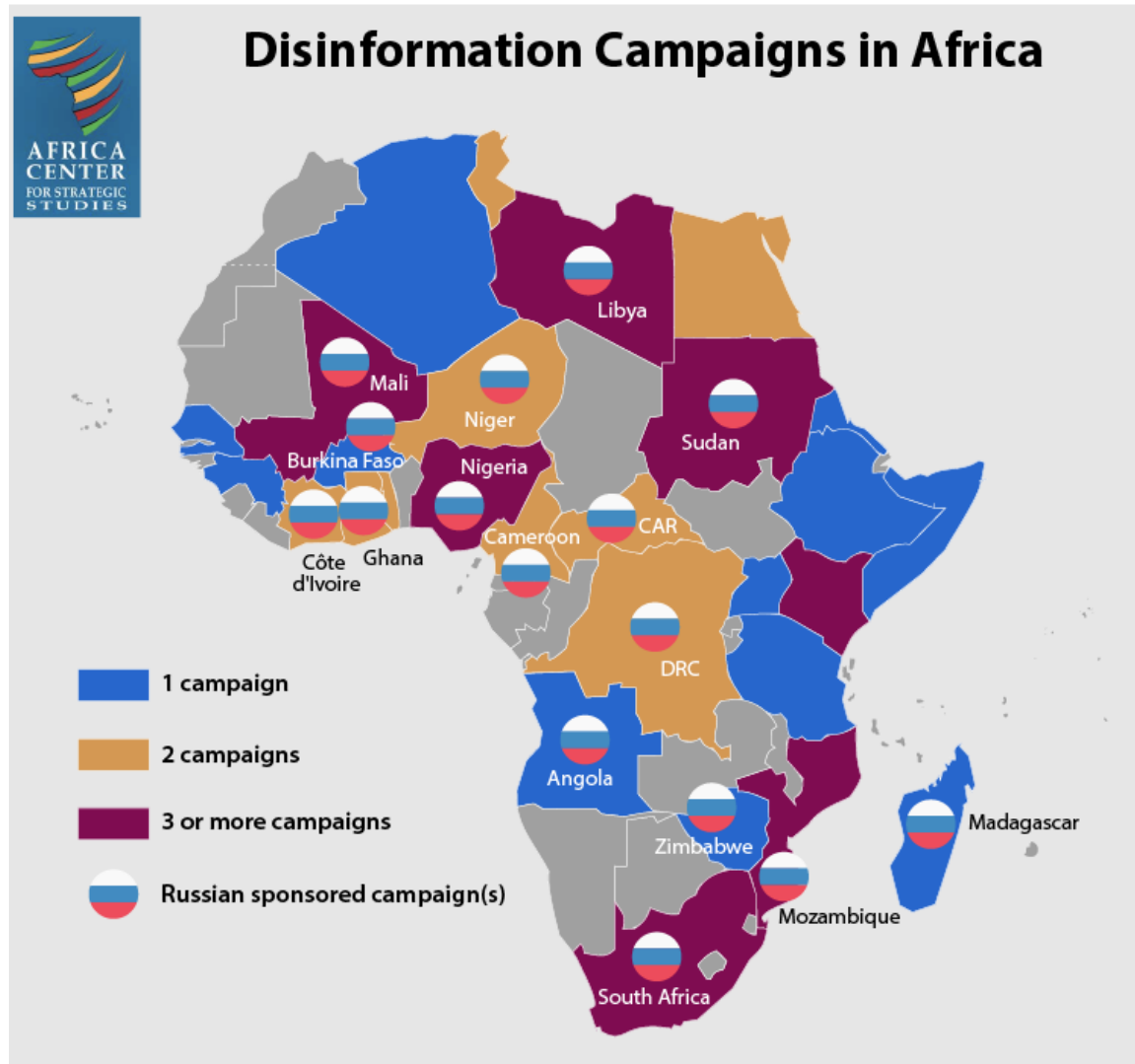
HSM Press Office @HSM_PR 3h

The incoherent ramblings of Kenyan officials and the blatant discrepancies with regards to the Mujahideen at #Westgate betrays their fears

[Expand](#)



Threat 5: Disinformation



Implications for Security Actors



Threats are likely to accelerate



Unconventional threats require unconventional solutions



Africa at a critical juncture



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