

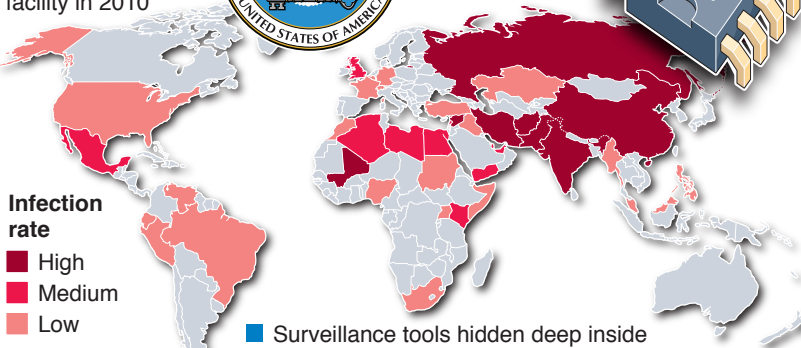
U.S. linked to worldwide spread of spyware

The U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) has devised a way of hiding spyware deep within hard drives made by top manufacturers, giving the agency the means to eavesdrop on the majority of the world's computers, researchers in Russia have revealed

■ **U.S. links:** Researchers say spying software operated by **"Equation Group"** is closely linked to **Stuxnet** – NSA-led virus that attacked Iranian nuclear facility in 2010



■ **Technological breakthrough**
Spies figured out how to lodge malicious software in **firmware** code that launches every time a computer is turned on



Infection rate

■ High
■ Medium
■ Low

MOST INFECTED COUNTRIES

■ Surveillance tools hidden deep inside hard drives made by companies such as **Toshiba, Western Digital, Seagate** and **IBM**

	Finance	Government	Embassies	Research	Energy	University	Military	Aerospace	Telecoms	Medical	Media	Other
Iran	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍		🔍	🔍			🔍
Russia		🔍		🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍		🔍
Pakistan		🔍		🔍	🔍	🔍			🔍	🔍		🔍
Afghanistan	🔍	🔍	🔍						🔍		🔍	🔍
India				🔍			🔍	🔍				🔍
China			🔍			🔍						🔍
Syria			🔍									🔍
Mali	🔍								🔍			🔍