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## **ATTEMPTED HACK OF NEW YORK TIMES MIGHT FUEL MORE TALK OF RUSSIA ASSISTING TRUMP**

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24.08.2016

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The Washington Post, 23 August 2016

This post has been updated with information from a follow-up report by the New York Times.

Donald Trump insists he has "nothing to do with Russia" □ but Russia's recent moves sure make it look as if it is trying to do something for him.

CNN reported Tuesday afternoon that hackers whom U.S. officials believe to be working for the Russian government have launched cyberattacks against the New York Times and other news outlets.

The Times followed up with a slightly different account Tuesday evening, reporting an attack on its Moscow bureau and adding that "there is no evidence that the hackers, believed to be Russian, were successful." The Times also reported that the FBI is investigating the attempted hack but is not looking into similar incidents involving other news agencies.

Trump has famously invited the Kremlin to go after emails that Hillary Clinton deleted, citing privacy.

"Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing," Trump said at a news conference last month.

But during the same event, he called the idea that he can tell Russian hackers where to aim "so far-fetched."

"It's so ridiculous," Trump said. "Honestly I wish I had that power. I'd love to have that power."

Still, it could be possible for Trump to influence the selection of targets without knowing it, especially if Russia would prefer to see him in the White House. Russian President Vladimir Putin has praised Trump as "a really brilliant and talented person," and Trump has lauded Putin as a "strong leader." Former U.S. ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul wrote in The Washington Post last week that "Putin not only has strong motives for wanting Trump to win over Clinton but also has some means to try to influence our presidential vote."

Cyberattacks are among the means, McFaul noted, pointing to the release of hacked Democratic National Committee emails shortly before the party's national convention. U.S. intelligence officials said they think Russia was behind the breach, which embarrassed Trump's political foes.

If Russian hackers were to take cues from Trump, media companies — and the New York Times, specifically — would surely be on the hit list. The business executive often rails against the "failing" New York Times and the "scum" in the media. He has vowed to "open up" libel laws, if elected, to make it easier to sue news organizations over negative coverage.

In short, Trump treats journalists as political opponents, much like Clinton and the Democrats.

I am not just running against Crooked Hillary Clinton, I am running against the very dishonest and totally biased media - but I will win!

There is still plenty we don't know about this attempted media hack, but it is hardly a stretch to say that a candidate who would "love to have" the power to direct Russian hackers also would probably love to see them infiltrate the digital networks of the media companies he views as enemies. Journalists unsettled by his blacklisting of certain outlets, including The Post, and Trump's recent hiring of the lawyer who helped drive Gawker into bankruptcy certainly won't feel any more at ease now.

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Kaynak/Source: