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[(TS//SI//REL) Is there "fifth party" collection?](#) S
_23 _
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(TS//SI//REL) "[Fourth party collection](#)" refers to passively or actively obtaining data from some other actor's CNE activity against a target. Has there ever been an instance of NSA obtaining information from Actor One exploiting Actor Two's CNE activity against a target that NSA, Actor One, and Actor Two all care about?

(TS//SI//REL) Edit: Awesome illustration per request:

asked 3 days ago
UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO

████████████ (CIV-NSA)

by (U//FOUO) ████████████ (CIV-NSA)
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2 Answers

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(TS//SI//REL) Yes. There was a project that I was working last year with regard to the South Korean CNE program. While we aren't super interested in SK (things changed a bit when they started targeting us a bit more), we were interested in North Korea and SK puts a lot of resources against them. At that point, our access to NK was next to nothing but we were able to make some inroads to the SK CNE program. We found a few instances where there were NK officials with SK implants on their boxes, so we got on the exfil points, and sucked back the data. Thats fourth party. (TS//SI//REL) However, some of the individuals that SK was targeting were also part of the NK CNE program. So I guess that would be the fifth party collect you were talking about. But once that started happening, we ramped up efforts to target NK ourselves (as you dont want to rely on an untrusted actor to do your work for you). But some of the work that was done there was able to help us gain access. (TS//SI//REL) I know of another instance (I will be more vague because I believe there are more compartments involved and parts are probably NF) where there was an actor we were going against. We realized there was another actor that was also going against them and having great success because of a 0 day they wrote. We got the 0 day out of passive and were able to re-purpose it. Big win. (TS//SI//REL) But they were all still referred to as fourth party.
answered 2 days ago
UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO
▮▮▮▮ (CIV-NSA)

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_6
CLASSIFICATION : UNCLASSIFIED
C: UK TOP SECRET STRAP1 COMINT AUSCANUKUSNZ (TS//SI//REL//) '4th Party' was, of course, a COMINT (and particularly a cryppie) term long before it was a CNE one (or CNE even existed). In a COMINT context, ISTR meeting a '5th Party' scenario from '70s: GCHQ station collected cipher on nation A's internal security comms. Broken cipher revealed collect (including cipher texts) by A's SIGINT against neighbouring nation B's internal security comms (so that was '4th Party'). Some of B's texts so obtained revealed intel derived from B's domestic intercept targets, so I guess that was '5th Party' ..
answered 1 day ago
C//REL TO USA, FVEY
▮▮▮▮ (Unknown-GCHQ)

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Topics:
<u>fifth party collection</u>
<u>fourth party collection</u>

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