Twitter Thread by Cory Doctorow #BLM

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One of the most fascinating revelations from the Snowden documents was the story of "fourth party collection," which is when the NSA hacks the spy agency of a friendly nation to suck up all the spy data it has amassed on its own people.

https://t.co/8WZ6WJigjU

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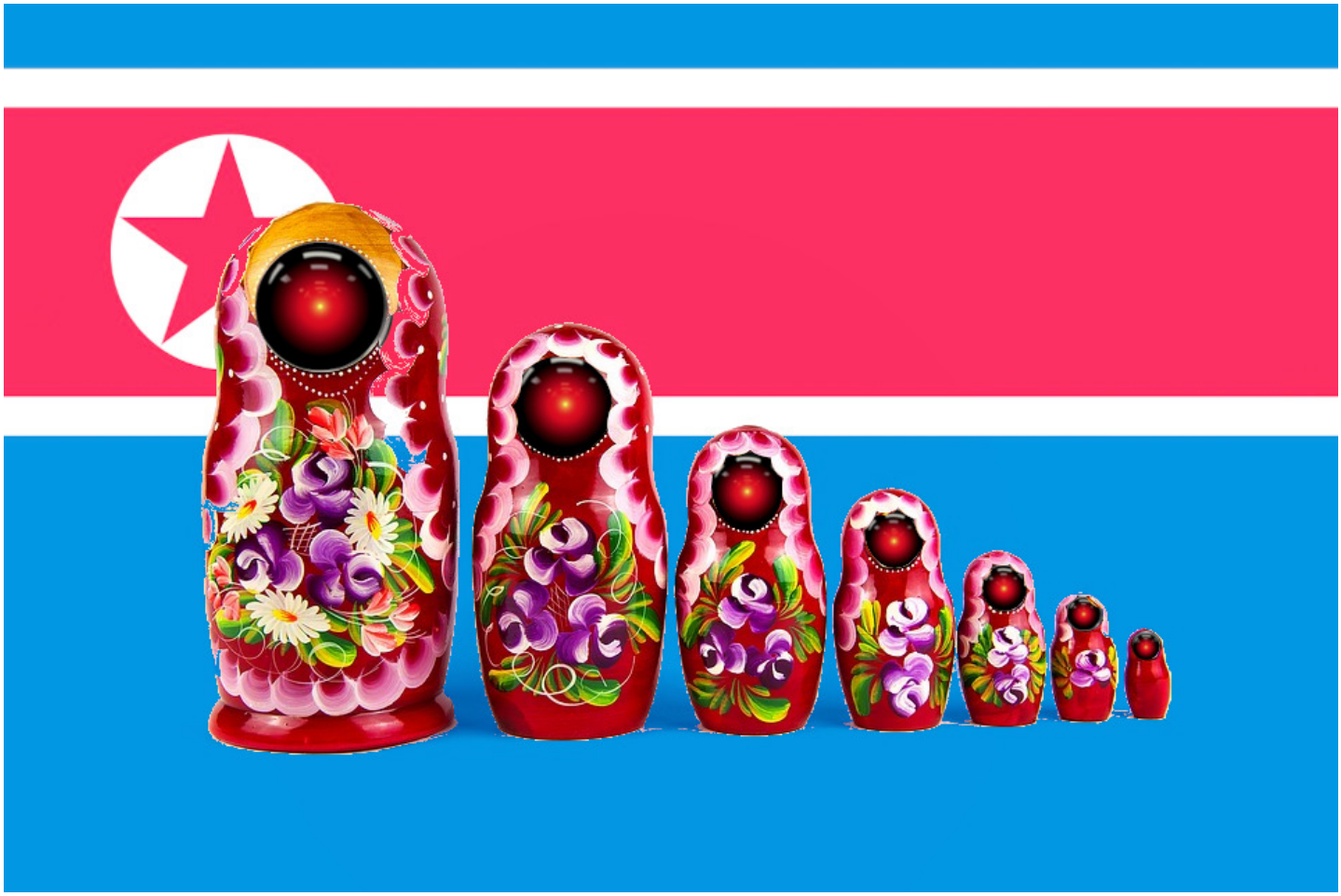

It's a devilishly effective spying technique and it surfaces a major risk of mass domestic surveillance - if your internal police get hacked by another nation, then that country can get all of your data. The secret police say they're spying to protect you - some protection!

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Even more mind-blowing is the existence of "fifth-party collection" (spying on a spy agency that's spying on another spy agency) and "SIXTH-party collection" (spying on a spy agency that's spying on another spy agency that's spying on another spy agency) .

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It's also fascinating because it's so obvious in retrospect. Willie Sutton robbed banks "because that's where the money is." Spooks spy on other spooks because that's where the kompromat is: gathered, sorted, filed and analyzed.

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This week, Google's Threat Analysis team published a warning to security researchers to be vigilant about a sophisticated threat-actor that is targeting the infosec community.

https://t.co/dlueiQsDbK

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Google says the attacker is working from North Korea (which strongly implies that they are working on behalf of the DPRK itself).

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An analysis of the attack recounts how the hackers would ingratiate themselves to infosec professionals, ask them to collaborate on interesting problems, and then slip them a poisoned software library that would take over their systems.

https://t.co/ne0Oyiri90

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Like fourth-party collection, this is a highly leveraged attack. Security researchers tend to have a lot of proof-of-concept malware, notes on vulnerabilities, and other juicy tools and intel that could be weaponized to attack high-level systems.

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Image: Cryteria (modified)
https://t.co/ICebVcdH1f

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