

India among server sites for NSA's snoop program

Staff Reporter

CHENNAI: Continuing its series of exposes on the manner in which the U.S. government has been tracking global electronic communication traffic, *The Guardian* has published new documents that reveal details on an international program that siphons data directly from Internet networks without judicial oversight or authorisation.

Code-named XKeyscore, the program, the U.S. National Security Agency claims, is the “widest-reaching” system for developing intelligence from the Internet. During a 30-day period in 2012, around 41 billion records were retrieved and

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stored in XKeyscore.

The program also appears to have a significant Indian connection. One page from the training manual released, titled

“Where is XKeyscore?” points out that the program has over 700 servers from 150 sites — India being one of the sites in question.

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While there is no further information on the purposes and exact locations of these servers, it would appear from the slides released that India is a site that relays information back to the XKeyscore web server that, in turn, relays information to various NSA analysts. This could not, however, be independently verified by *The Hindu*.