

Suspected celebrity hacker Guccifer arrested

January 23 2014



George W. Bush speaks during a immigration naturalization ceremony held at the George W. Bush Presidential Center on July 10, 2013 in Dallas, Texas

A man suspected of breaking into the email accounts of Romanian and US celebrities, including the Bush family, under the nickname "Guccifer" has been arrested in Romania with US help.

Romania's Directorate for Investigating Organised Crime (DIICOT) told AFP on Thursday it had detained a 42-year-old man with the initials LML after searching his home in Arad, eastern Romania, on

Wednesday.

The suspect has been charged with cybercrimes for "repeatedly and illegally accessing [email accounts](#) belonging to public persons in Romania with the aim of getting [confidential data](#)" and will be held for 29 days, prosecutors said.

The man named as Marcel Lazar Lehel by Romanian media has already been sentenced for cybercrimes in the past.

A source close to the investigation told AFP the man is also believed to be the hacker known as Guccifer. He has also in the past used the alias Little Smoke.

Guccifer hit the headlines last year after he allegedly hacked the accounts of the Bush family, posting pictures of paintings by former US president George W. Bush online.

In January, Guccifer reportedly told the US website The Smoking Gun that his other victims included "Downton Abbey" creator Julian Fellowes and US actor Steve Martin.



Julian Fellowes arrives at the world premiere of the film 'Romeo & Juliet' in Hollywood on September 24, 2013

Romanian authorities have refused to comment on the man's alleged activities outside Romania but DIICOT said they were working with US authorities on the case.

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