

Takedown of MATRIX



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News

At the beginning of December 2024, a Joint Investigation Team from the Netherlands, France, Lithuania, Italy, and Spain took down the **MATRIX** (Mactrix/Totalsec/X-quantum/Q-safe), an encrypted messaging service created by criminals for criminals. The takedown was aided by Eurojust and Europol.

Criminal users could join the service by invitation. The platform consisted of over 40 servers in several countries, with important servers located in France and Germany. For three months, the authorities were able to intercept the messaging service and monitor the activity on the service, resulting in the interception and decryption of more than 2.3 million messages in 33 languages. The messages were linked to serious crimes such as international drug trafficking, arms trafficking, and money laundering.

On the day of the operation (3 December 2024), which took place in four countries, houses were searched, three people were arrested, and €145.000 in cash, €500.000 in cryptocurrency, four cars, and over 970 telephones seized. A freezing order was also placed on a villa with an estimated value of €15 million.

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