

## Does Your Iron Spy On You?

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There are many ways of spying on people and organizations but the Chinese appear to have found a different one.

According to Russian media reports, recently, St Petersburg customs seized a batch of small electrical appliances imported from China. The customs officers opened them up, and found microchips. These chips were suspected of being able to spread viruses and spam, so the goods were confiscated and sent for investigation.



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However, dozens of electric irons, kettles and digital cameras with these chips had already reached the Russian market.

Reports indicate that as long as the appliances are plugged in, the "spy chips" will be able to connect to computers within a radius of 200 meters, spreading spam messages containing viruses, monitoring users, and acting as 'spybots' to control the computer. It is extremely difficult to deter an attack, because it does not come from outside, but from within.

What other items made in China do we need to be wary of?