

Typewriters to stop Russian computer leaks

15th July, 2013



Western newspapers are reporting that Russia is to start using typewriters to stop computer leaks. However, Russian

newspapers say this is not true. Western media says the Kremlin wants to keep its secrets secret by using the old-fashioned machines. The BBC wrote that Russia's intelligence service (FSO) bought the typewriters because of the leak of information on WikiLeaks and recent leaks by former U.S. intelligence worker Edward Snowden. The FSO reportedly told the Russian press that these scandals, plus reports about Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev being listened in on at the G20 summit in London, means it has "decided to expand the practice of creating paper documents".

A Russian government department said the Kremlin bought 20 electric typewriters for around \$14,800. The FSO told reporters that: "This purchase has been planned for more than a year now." It also said the order has nothing to do with WikiLeaks or Edward Snowden. An FSO official told Russia's RT news agency that the FSO has always used typewriters. He said that it was simply time to buy new ones because the old equipment was out of date. He said: "It's not something unusual....The time came to change them. All the special services use them, including the Ministry of Defense." A reader of the RT website suggested: "A \$5 padlock is often more effective than a \$24,000 surveillance system."

Sources: RawStory / RT.com / BBC

Writing

Security was better before we had computers.
Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Western newspapers / computer leaks / secrets / intelligence / scandals / documents / typewriters / reporters / WikiLeaks / old equipment / unusual / padlock / surveillance

True / False

- a) Asian newspapers are saying Russia will use typewriters. T / F
- b) The BBC said Russia has bought typewriters because of WikiLeaks. T / F
- c) Russia said someone spied on its prime minister in London. T / F
- d) Russia said it would start using paper documents more. T / F
- e) Russia has bought 2,000 typewriters for its security services. T / F
- f) The typewriter order happened earlier this month. T / F
- g) The FSO said it only bought new typewriters to replace old ones. T / F
- h) A Russian politician said a \$5 padlock is best for securing secret info. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. stop | a. agent |
| 2. not true | b. fresh |
| 3. media | c. successful |
| 4. recent | d. prevent |
| 5. expand | e. section |
| 6. department | f. the press |
| 7. official | g. spying |
| 8. equipment | h. wrong |
| 9. effective | i. enlarge |
| 10. surveillance | j. stuff |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What are the advantages of typewriters over computers?
- b) What do you know about WikiLeaks and Edward Snowden?
- c) If you had a typewriter, what would you use it for?
- d) How useful were typewriters 50 years ago?
- e) What out-of-date equipment do you have?
- f) Is old fashioned bad?
- g) Is a padlock to stop someone stealing a laptop better than surveillance?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the FSO boss?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. start using typewriters to | a. press |
| 2. the Kremlin wants to keep its secrets | b. out of date |
| 3. former U.S. intelligence | c. more than a year now |
| 4. told the Russian | d. stop computer leaks |
| 5. creating paper | e. department |
| 6. government | f. secret |
| 7. planned for | g. do with WikiLeaks |
| 8. nothing to | h. documents |
| 9. the old equipment was | i. system |
| 10. surveillance | j. worker Edward Snowden |

Discussion – Student B

- What experience do you have with typewriters?
- How did typewriters change the world?
- Are typewriters a good way of keeping data safe?
- Are you surprised the Russian government is buying typewriters?
- Is public knowledge of the typewriters a leak?
- Do you think Russia is worried about WikiLeaks and Edward Snowden?
- Which places do you know of that still use typewriters?
- Do you know how to use a typewriter?

Spelling

- eWtners newspapers
- old-ifohesnda machines
- eciliengelnt worker
- at the G20 iumsmt in London
- decided to enadx the practice
- paper tcemdsnou
- A Russian government peratmdet
- this arcpseuh
- Russia's RT news gayecn
- the old pinuqetm was out of date
- A \$5 padlock is often more etfcvefie
- aeliIncvser system

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. h	3. f	4. b	5. i
6. e	7. a	8. j	9. c	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Typewriter

You think the typewriter is best for secrecy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their equipment. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): pen and paper, a desktop computer or iPads.

Role B – Pen and paper

You think pen and paper are best for secrecy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their equipment. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the typewriter, a desktop computer or iPads.

Role C – Desktop computer

You think a desktop computer is best for secrecy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their equipment. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): pen and paper, the typewriter or iPads.

Role D – iPad

You think iPads is best for secrecy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their equipment. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): pen and paper, a desktop computer or the typewriter.

Speaking - Equipment

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| • typewriter | • mobile phone |
| • iPad | • desktop computer |
| • pen and paper | • document company |
| • laptop computer | • photocopier |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.