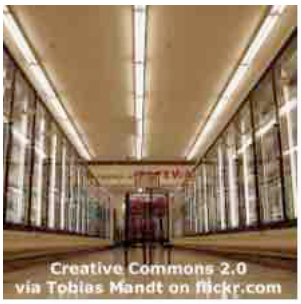
# France blames Iran for cyberattack on freezers

**12th November 2026**




The French government has blamed Iran for a cyberattack on supermarket freezers and refrigerators across France. The attacks happened last month. They hit around 700 supermarkets and shops. Hackers took control of the cooling systems in the fridges and freezers. Temperatures increased to more than 50 degrees Celsius. Thousands of tons of frozen food melted. Stores had to throw the food away because it was no longer safe to eat. The French Foreign Minister said the attack was on a level never seen before. France believes an Iranian cyber unit carried out the attack. Iran has strongly denied it was involved in the attacks and blamed the French government for them.

Security experts have warned that cyberattacks could be more dangerous in the future. Similar attacks have already affected other European countries. A French blood bank has also been hit. Fortunately, workers stopped the blood products from being damaged. Cybersecurity expert Gerome Billois stated: "At the moment, they are attacking easy equipment, but we should be prepared to see attacks on other systems like water or electricity." Weak computer security can let hackers attack places and services, such as hospitals, airports, public transport and banks. This can put people's lives in danger. European officials have said that a strong response is needed.

**Sources**: france24.com / *theguardian.com* / *cbsnews.com*

## Writing

We should not connect everything to the Internet. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

France / Iran / cyberattack / supermarket / refrigerators / hackers / frozen food / security experts / the future / blood bank / cybersecurity / hospitals / airports / banks

## True / False

1) The French government believes Iran hacked supermarket fridges. T / F
2) Hackers hacked into 700 freezers in French supermarkets. T / F
3) A lot of frozen food melted because of the hack. T / F
4) The French Foreign Minister said there had been worst attacks before. T / F
5) Hackers attacked a blood bank in France and destroyed all the blood. T / F
6) A security expert said the hackers were going after easy targets. T / F
7) The expert warned hackers could target electricity and water systems. T / F
8) European officials said no response was necessary. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | **across** | a. | rose |
| **2.** | **hit** | b. | ready |
| **3.** | **increased** | c. | did |
| **4.** | **safe to eat** | d. | cautioned |
| **5.** | **carried out** | e. | reply |
| **6.** | **warned** | f. | edible |
| **7.** | **fortunately** | g. | all over |
| **8.** | **prepared** | h. | like |
| **9.** | **such as** | i. | struck |
| **10.** | **response** | j. | luckily |

## Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think about what you read?
b) What cyberattacks do you know about?
c) How worried are you about cybersecurity?
d) How dangerous could cyberattacks become?
e) What would you do if banks were attacked?
f) What would you do if public transport was attacked?
g) Should children at school have lessons on stopping cyberattacks?
h) What questions would you like to ask a cybersecurity expert?

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## Phrase Match

1. a cyberattack on supermarket freezers
2. Hackers took control of the cooling
3. Temperatures increased to more than
4. Thousands of tons of
5. Iran has strongly denied
6. blood
7. workers stopped the blood products
8. at the
9. This can put people's lives
10. officials have said that a strong

a. in danger
b. 50 degrees Celsius
c. it was involved
d. from being damaged
e. frozen food melted
f. systems
g. moment
h. response is needed
i. and refrigerators
j. bank

## Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think of cyberattacks?
b) Should fridges and freezers be connected to the internet?
c) What dangers are there to being online?
d) Have you ever had any problems online?
e) How can supermarkets keep their food safe?
f) What should governments do to stop cyberattacks?
g) What things in your house are connected to the internet?
h) What advice do you have for the supermarkets?

## Spelling

1. freezers and eraigrrftreos
2. hackers took onrtclo
3. lconiog systems
4. tons of frozen food tdeeml
5. the attack was on a lleev never seen before
6. denied it was ovnlvdei in the attacks
7. security xeprets
8. fefaedct other European countries
9. dlboo products
10. water or ecclirytiet
11. public artornpts
12. a strong orseespn is needed

**Answers – Synonym Match**

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

## Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions. (Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. | What two things did hackers hack in French supermarkets? |
| 2. | How many supermarkets did the hackers target? |
| 3. | What happened to tons of frozen food? |
| 4. | What did the French Foreign Minister say about the level of the attack? |
| 5. | Who blamed France for the attack? |
| 6. | What did security experts warn could be more dangerous in the future? |
| 7. | What kind of bank was attacked in France? |
| 8. | Who is Gerome Billois? |
| 9. | What can allow hackers to attack places like hospitals and airports? |
| 10. | What did European officials say was needed? |

## Speaking – Infrastructure

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that are riskiest if they were cyber-attacked at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Hospitals
- Banks
- TV stations
- Dams
- Railway networks
- Data centres
- Water treatment plants
- Electricity grids

**Answers – True False**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | T | 2 | F | 3 | T | 4 | F | 5 | F | 6 | T | 7 | T | 8 | F |

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.

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