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ANALYSING CYBERATTACKS ON SPACE SYSTEMS IN THE WAR IN UKRAINE

Abstract

On February 24th 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine and launched a cyberattack on ViaSat KA-SAT's satellite, which was used by the Ukrainian government in order to deprive them of satellite communications capabilities. The conflict illustrated the rising importance of space systems, in particular commercial ones, to support military operations on Earth. In addition, cyber threats have rapidly increased on the space infrastructure coming from States, state-sponsored, and non-state actors. This paper will analyse the various attacks or attempted attacks against space systems conducted as part of the war in Ukraine. First, the paper will map the various attacks on the space infrastructure coming from both sides of the conflict. Then, it will look into the types of vulnerabilities and entry points exploited in these attacks in order to provide a broader analysis regarding the state of cybersecurity in the space sector.