










Dear Clear Lake Association members,

There's a front page national story running this weekend with headlines "**Secret CIA assessment says Russia was trying to help Trump win White House**". This story is no secret, and oddly, it may involve our Clear Lake Association website. Please read on if you'd like to know the technical details.

As some of you may know, I make a living by creating and maintaining public and personal websites. On many of these websites, I enable a service called Google Analytics. This service provides information about the number of visitors to my websites, their IP addresses, data about their computers and what these visitors do when they are on my websites.

During the last week of October and the first week of November 2016, Google Analytics reported that our Clear Lake Association website (www.zoa.com/clearlake) was visited 125 times by Russians.

Country	Sessions	% Sessions
1.  Russia	125	62.81%
2.  United States	17	8.54%
3.  Austria	16	8.04%
4.  Germany	10	5.03%
5.  Italy	10	5.03%
6.  United Kingdom	9	4.52%
7. (not set)	9	4.52%
8.  Slovakia	1	0.50%
9.  Thailand	1	0.50%
10.  Vietnam	1	0.50%



It's not unusual for any webpage to receive random visits from people who accidentally google a site. However, it's no accident when more than 60% of a website's visitors are from one place. Using IP addresses, Google Analytics enabled me to map the specific locations of our visitors, as shown in the image to the left.

So, why would people in central Russia be interested our discussions and voting about milfoil abatement and muskrat trapping in Michigan?

I found the answer to this question in a message that one of our Russian visitors managed to embed into our website's identification logs, shown here:

Language	Sessions	% Sessions
1. Secret.google.com You are invited! Enter only with this ticket URL. Copy it. Vote for Trump!	111	75.00%
2. (not set)	36	24.32%
3. en-us	1	0.68%

[view full report](#)

Sure enough, this was an example of **pro-Trump election tampering by Russian hackers**.

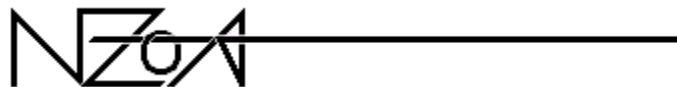
I want to assure everyone that our Clear Lake directory is secure. According to Google Analytics, no one in Russian attempted to open our password-protected directory. None of our confidential material was viewed by foreign eyes. No personal data was exposed.

Conclusion: Our humble little Clear Lake Association website has been the target of an attempt to influence the 2016 election in Michigan.

We're probably not the only organization in Michigan whose website was visited by Russian hackers during October and November. In any case, there's no doubt that the CIA assessment is valid.

What should we do about this news? It's up to you. I think I'll write my congressman.

Happy holidays to everyone and best wishes for the New Year,



Nick Zoa
Clear Lake Association's IT guy