

PRESS RELEASE

Paris-Saclay, 21 August 2024

Université Paris-Saclay targeted by a cyberattack

On Sunday 11 August 2024, Université Paris-Saclay was the victim of a large-scale cyberattack, severely impacting its internal servers and IT services. Since then, the university's staff, supported by the French National Agency for the Security of Information Systems (ANSSI), has worked tirelessly to manage the situation. A Frequency Asked Questions (FAQ) list is available on the [university's temporary website](#).

Like many other public services in the past, Université Paris-Saclay has been targeted by a large-scale ransomware attack.¹ The incident was reported on 20 August to the Departmental Gendarmerie of Palaiseau to ensure legal action follows this attack on a fundamental public service. In accordance with its principles and government directives, the university will not pay the ransom, given that such payment does not guarantee that IT services will be restored and will only encourage cybercriminals to repeat their actions against public institutions.

A crisis unit was put in place immediately after the incident occurred, including the university's president, the director general of services, its IT department, ANSSI and the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research. The unit decides on the actions to be taken, in line with the recommendations made by ANSSI and the Ministry.

As the university's official website was affected by the attack, a temporary site has been launched by the university's teams in order to ensure communication with staff and students over the coming days and weeks. An FAQ list on the cyberattack will be regularly updated on the website to provide information on the incident and the measures in place. It is recommended to check this website regularly, as well as the university's social media.

The university's priorities are to secure its IT systems to prevent further attacks and gradually restore its IT services. The objective is to ensure that the start of the academic year goes as smoothly as possible and to welcome students², following a calendar which remains unchanged and is available on the website. The enrolment procedure is currently being restored. Information on enrolments will be available on the website on 26 August 2024. Accepted students at Université Paris-Saclay will receive information via the email address that they provided in their application.

The restoration of the university's IT services will take place in several stages spread over several weeks, and a detailed calendar is currently being drawn up. Priority has been given to securing IT infrastructure, recreating a centralised authentication service, and restoring messaging services.

¹ Ransomware is a type of malicious software designed to block access to a computer system or documents until a ransom is paid.

² The Orsay University Library and Lumen reopened on Monday 19 August. Information on opening hours is available on the [Affluences](#) website.

The central services of Université Paris-Saclay, its faculties, university technical institutes (IUT), Polytech Paris-Saclay and the Observatory of the sciences of the Universe (OSUPS) are affected by these disruptions. The university's *grandes écoles* (AgroParisTech, CentraleSupélec, ENS Paris-Saclay and Institut d'Optique Graduate School), its associate member institutions (UVSQ and Université d'Évry) and partnering research organisations (CEA, CNRS, INRAE, INRIA, Inserm, IHES and Onera) have not been affected by the cyberattack.

The attack means that staff and students at Université Paris-Saclay will be faced with deteriorated working modes in the coming weeks. Nonetheless, the university will continue to provide its teaching and research activities, with the support of the government. The university recognises the exceptional work of its administrative, academic and research staff, who have all allowed for operational continuity.

ABOUT UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-SACLAY

Université Paris-Saclay was born from the shared ambition of French universities, grandes écoles and national research organisations. As a leading university in Europe and the world, it covers the fields of science and engineering, life sciences and health, and humanities and social sciences. The university's science policy closely intertwines research and innovation, incorporating both basic and applied science to tackle major societal challenges. Université Paris-Saclay offers a varied range of undergraduate to doctorate level degrees, including programmes with its grandes écoles, all of which are focused on achieving student success and employability. The university prepares students for an ever-changing world where the ability to think critically, remain agile and renew one's skills are crucial. Université Paris-Saclay also offers a comprehensive range of lifelong learning courses. Located to the south of Paris, the university extends across a vast and rich local area. Its location strengthens both its international visibility and its close ties with its socio-economic partners (major companies, SMEs, start-ups, local authorities, charities).

www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/en/

