



This Month at the WFO

A newsletter from the FBI Washington Field Office

Issue 62 – June 2014



FBI Leads Action Against “CryptoLocker” Ransomware

This month, the FBI and foreign law enforcement officials seized computer servers central to the malicious software or “malware” known as CryptoLocker, a form of “ransomware” that encrypted the files on victims’ computers until they paid a ransom. This highly sophisticated malware, which began appearing in September 2013, used cryptographic key pairs to encrypt the computer files of its victims. Victims were forced to pay hundreds of dollars to receive the key necessary to unlock their files. If the victim did not pay the

ransom, it was impossible to recover their files. In April 2014, security researchers estimated that Cryptolocker had infected more than 234,000 computers, with approximately half of those in the U.S. One estimate indicates that more than \$27 million in ransom payments were made in just the first two months since Cryptolocker emerged. Actions against Cryptolocker are the result of an ongoing criminal investigation by the WFO, in coordination with law enforcement counterparts from Canada, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and Ukraine. [Click here](#) to learn more about what you can do to protect your computer from being infected with malware. Additional information and alerts about CryptoLocker is available on [DHS's CERT website](#).

Guilty Pleas From Two Former D.C. Council Candidates Who Violated D.C. Campaign Finance Laws

Two former candidates for the D.C. Council, pled guilty this month to felony charges. Jeff Smith pled guilty to filing a false and misleading report with the D.C.’s Office of Campaign Finance that concealed campaign contributions in excess of those permitted under D.C. campaign finance laws. Kelvin Robinson pled guilty to a charge of conspiring to violate D.C. campaign finance laws by defrauding the D.C. Office of Campaign Finance. The charges involve contributions to both Smith’s and Robinson’s 2010 D.C. Council campaigns. Both men admitted that more money was secretly channeled to their campaigns from businessman Jeffrey E. Thompson. Thompson is the former chairman, chief executive officer and majority owner of Thompson, Cobb, Bazilio and Associates, a corporation that provided accounting, management, consulting and tax services. He also is the former chairman, chief executive officer and owner of D.C. Healthcare Systems, Inc., an investment holding and for-profit corporation. Both companies generated millions of dollars in government contracts. Thompson and six others previously pled guilty to charges involving illegal contributions to numerous federal and D.C. campaigns.

Reston Man Sentenced for Exporting Unlicensed High-Tech Goods to Iran

Vahid Hosseini was sentenced this month to 30 months in prison for exporting various high-tech unlicensed goods to Iran, in violation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), and for laundering money wired to him from multiple overseas accounts. From January 2008 to July 2013, Hosseini operated a business known as Sabern Instruments from his residence in Reston. Through this business, Hosseini procured over \$250,000 worth of goods from over 60 U.S. manufacturers, which he then repackaged and shipped to entities in Iran. The high-tech goods included items that are used in a variety of commercial applications, including power plants. Some of the items Hosseini sent to Iran were found to be capable of adding value to a nuclear weapons program and to other nuclear-related applications and research areas. Hosseini routed his shipments through the United Arab Emirates in an attempt to disguise the fact that the items were destined for Iran. Such exports are prohibited without a license issued by the Treasury Department.

Juveniles Recovered in Nationwide Operation Targeting Commercial Child Sex Trafficking

This month, WFO took part in the FBI’s week-long enforcement action known as Operation Cross Country to address commercial child sex trafficking throughout the U.S. While no child victims were recovered in Northern Virginia or Washington, D.C., this operation included enforcement actions in 106 cities across 54 FBI field divisions nationwide and resulted in 168 recoveries of children who were being victimized through prostitution. Additionally, 281 pimps were arrested on state and federal charges, including two in Northern Virginia. [Read more](#) about this nationwide takedown.

FBI Washington Field Office

601 4th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20535

www.fbi.gov/washingtondc Twitter: @FBIWFO (202) 278-2000