NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California

United States Attorney
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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - October 7, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Bradley John Dierking of San Diego was arraigned today in federal court in San Diego before United States Magistrate Judge Anthony J. Battaglia on federal computer hacking charges. Mr. Dierking is charged in an indictment handed up by a federal grand jury on Thursday, October 2, 2008, with one count of intentionally damaging protected computers. Mr. Dierking was arrested by agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation on Monday, October 6, 2008.

According to the indictment and other court records, Mr. Dierking was employed by Geary Interactive, a local online and digital advertising agency from May 2005 until April 2007. Miraval Resort was a significant customer of Geary Interactive. As charged in the indictment, beginning on about May 14, 2007, and continuing to about June 13, 2007, Mr. Dierking accessed the computer network of Geary Interactive without authority and defaced the online reservation page of Miraval Resort. The defacement added content to the web page disparaging two Geary Interactive executives. In addition, according to the indictment, Mr. Dierking changed all of the administrative passwords to certain Geary Interactive databases

rendering them inaccessible. As a consequence, both Geary Interactive and Miraval Resort suffered financial damages and Miraval Resort terminated its relationship with Geary Interactive.

This case was investigated by Special Agents assigned to the Cybercrime Squad of the San Diego Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Magistrate Judge Anthony J. Battaglia set bail in the amount of $30,000. Mr. Dierking will next appear in court on November 14, 2008 at 11:00 a.m., before the Honorable Jeffrey T. Miller, United States District Judge, for motion hearing and trial setting.

DEFENDANT **Case Number: 08cr3233JM**

Bradley John Dierking San Diego, California Age: 30

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

One Count - Title 18, United States Code, Section 1030(a)(5)(A)(i) - Intentionally Damaging a Protected Computer

Maximum Penalties: 10 years' imprisonment and $250,000 fine per count

AGENCY

Federal Bureau of Investigation

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.