United States Attorney's Office District of Connecticut
Press Release

April 2, 2008 FIVE MEN CHARGED IN SOFTWARE PIRACY CONSPIRACY

Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, today announced that a federal grand jury sitting in New Haven has returned a three-count Indictment charging five individuals with conspiracy to commit criminal copyright infringement. The Indictment was returned yesterday, April 1.

According to the Indictment, **STEVEN FIATARONE**, also known as "kidzap," 55, of Spring Hill, Florida; **MICHAEL USZAKOW**, also known as "iced," 43, of Oakdale, Minnesota; **WILLIAM PARROTT**, also known as "niterangr," 38, of Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina; **DOMINIC TYMOREK**, also known as "tcut," 53, of Woodstock, Georgia, and **ROBERT HARDICK**, also known as "tcut," 57, of Getzville, New York, were all participants in the "warez scene," which is an underground online community consisting of individuals and organized groups who use the Internet to engage in the large-scale, illegal distribution of copyrighted software. In the warez scene, certain participants (known as "suppliers") are able to obtain access to copyrighted software, video games, DVD movies, and MP3 music files, often before those titles are even available to the general public. Other participants, known as "crackers," then use their technical skills to circumvent or "crack" the digital copyright protections. Others, known as "couriers," then distribute the pirated software to various file servers on the Internet for others to access, reproduce, and further distribute.

The Indictment charges TYMOREK and HARDICK with three counts of conspiracy, FIATARONE and USZAKOW with two counts of conspiracy, and PARROT with one count of conspiracy. If convicted, the defendants face a maximum term of imprisonment of five years and a fine of up to $250,000, on each count.

U.S. Attorney O'Connor stressed that an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Each defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which it is the Government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs

Enforcement and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Edward Chang of the District of Connecticut and Clement J. McGovern from the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section of the Department of Justice.

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