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Former Inmate Sentenced for Hacking Prison Computer

BOSTON, MA - A former prisoner of the Plymouth County Correctional Facility was sentenced today in federal court to 18 months of imprisonment for intentionally damaging the prison's computer network.

United States Attorney Carmen M. Ortiz, Warren T. Bamford, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation - Boston Field Office and Joseph D. McDonald, Jr., Plymouth County Sheriff, announced today that FRANCIS G. JANOSKO, age 44, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge George A. O'Toole, Jr., to 18 months' imprisonment, to be followed by three years of supervised release and restitution to the prison. JANOSKO pled guilty to one count of intentionally damaging a protected computer on September 15, 2009.

At the earlier plea hearing, the prosecutor told the Court that had the case proceeded to trial the Government's evidence would have proven that while JANOSKO was an inmate at the Plymouth County Correctional Facility in 2006 and 2007, the correctional facility provided inmates a computer for legal research with security controls to prohibit Internet access, e-mail, or using other computers or computer programs. Despite these restrictions, JANOSKO hacked the computer network to send e-mail; to provide inmates access to a report that listed the names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, home addresses, telephone numbers and past employment history of over 1,100 current and former Plymouth County Correctional Facility personnel and applicants; and to access (without success) an important prison management computer program.

During the three years of his supervised release, JANOSKO will be prohibited from discussing any information that he learned from the prison's computer system or about the prison's computer system with anyone other than his attorney or a government representative,

from using any device connected to the Internet without approval from the probation office, which will be limited to work or educational purposes, and from contacting any of the people whose identity information he uncovered.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Assistance and the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott L. Garland of Ortiz's Computer Crime Unit.