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June 1, 2007

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: William A. Johns

FORMER COMPUTER CONTRACTOR PLEADS GUILTY TO HACKING DAIMLER CHRYSLER PARTS DISTRIBUTION WIRELESS NETWORK

A former computer contractor who did work for Daimler Chrysler pleaded guilty today in federal court to unlawful computer intrusion into the company's wireless parts distribution network in 2003 and causing damage to the system, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, FBI Special Agent in Charge.

William A. Johns, 65, of Lake Orion, Michigan, entered the guilty plea in United States District Court before United States District Judge David M. Lawson.

The information presented to the court at the time of the plea showed that on October 3, 2003, Johns entered the Daimler Chrysler Assembly plant in Sterling Heights, Michigan and accessed a computer kiosk located in the visitor's lobby. Based on his familiarity with Daimler

Chrysler's computer system, which had been gained when Johns worked for Intermec, a computer company working with Daimler Chrysler, Johns was able to enter commands from this computer terminal that caused files and passwords to be deleted from wireless devices located in remote parts distribution facilities, that is, devices located in MOPAR facilities located in Atlanta, Georgia, Portland, Oregon, and Denver, Colorado. MOPAR was the parts distribution component of Daimler Chrysler. As a result of the damage to these devices, it was necessary to remove and repair them, causing each MOPAR facility to shut-down for approximately 7.5 hours, and resulting in over $25,000 in damages to Daimler Chrysler.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Keeping our corporate networks secure from unauthorized intrusions is just as crucial as protecting our homes from invasion or our property from theft. I commend the FBI, and the internal investigation staff at Daimler Chrysler, for their excellent investigative work, which lead to this guilty plea."

Under the terms of the plea agreement, Johns faces up to 12 months' imprisonment and a fine of up to $250,000. Johns will also be required to make full restitution to Daimler Chrysler in the amount of $ 29,916 to pay for the costs associated with repairing the consequences of the damage.

A sentencing hearing was set by Judge Lawson for 4 p.m. on September 12, 2007.

The case is being prosecuted by First Assistant United States Attorney Terrence Berg.