United States Attorney's Office District of Connecticut
Press Release

September 10, 2008

WEST HAVEN MAN INVOLVED IN EMAIL PHISHING AND SPAMMING SCHEME SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS IN PRISON

Nora R. Dannehy, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that DANIEL MASCIA, 24, of West Haven, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Alvin W. Thompson in Hartford to 24 months of imprisonment, followed by three years of supervised release, for his involvement in a "phishing" and "spamming" scheme that targeted AOL subscribers. On March 17, 2008, MASCIA pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit fraud in connection with access devices and one count of fraud in connection with electronic mail.

According to documents filed with the Court and statements made in court, MASCIA, Michael Dolan and others conspired to "harvest" email addresses of AOL subscribers from the Internet. The defendants then spammed thousands of AOL subscribers with counterfeit emails purporting, for example, to convey an electronic greeting card. If an AOL subscriber attempted to view the greeting card, the subscriber's computer would be infected with a software trojan preventing the subscriber from accessing AOL without entering information including the subscriber's name, address, Social Security account number, credit card number, bank account number, and personal identification number. The defendants used the information to produce counterfeit debit cards, which they used at ATM machines, online, and at retail outlets to obtain money, goods, and services.

In pleading guilty, MASCIA admitted that, during a two-day period in January 2006, he sent thousands of fraudulent emails from his home to AOL subscribers.

On August 13, 2008, Dolan was sentenced to 84 months of imprisonment.

This case has been investigated by the West Haven Police Department, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the United States Secret Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Edward

Chang.

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