NEWS RELEASE

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

United States Attorney
Laura E. Duffy

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U. S. Attorney Nicole Acton Jones, 619-557-5482

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - September 10, 2010

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that Andrew Michael Shelnutt was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in San Diego by the Honorable Jeffrey T. Miller to serve 48 months in federal custody, based on Shelnutt's convictions for intentionally causing damage to a protected computer and possession of child pornography. In March 2010, Shelnutt pled guilty to each offense.

During his guilty plea, Shelnutt admitted that the victim of the computer intrusion was CariNet, Inc., a company that operates a large computer server hosting facility in San Diego, California. Shelnutt was a former CariNet employee. Between October 2008 and November 9, 2008, Shelnutt repeatedly accessed CariNet's computer network without authorization and caused damage. Specifically, Shelnutt changed CariNet's network configuration and deleted the computer logs that had recorded his unauthorized activity. As a result of the intrusion, CariNet incurred a loss in excess of $5,000.

According to court records, federal agents searched Shelnutt's residence and home computer in connection with the computer intrusion investigation. As a result of that search, the agents discovered that Shelnutt possessed child pornography. In fact, as part of his guilty plea, Shelnutt admitted that he knowingly possessed computer media containing more than 600 visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

CariNet reported the computer intrusion to law enforcement authorities and cooperated fully with the investigation. This case was investigated by the Cybercrime Squad of the San Diego Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

DEFENDANT **Case Number: 09CR3477-JM**

Andrew Shelnutt

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Count 1 - Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1030(a)(5) & (c)(4)(B)(i) - Intentionally Causing Damage to a Protected Computer
Maximum Penalties: 10 years' imprisonment and $250,000 fine per count

Count 3 - Title 18, United States Code, Section § 2252(a)(4)(B) - Possession of Child Pornography
Maximum Penalties: 10 years' imprisonment and $250,000 fine per count

AGENCY

Federal Bureau of Investigation