Department of Justice

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan
District of Massachusetts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 29, 2008
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/MA

CONTACT: CHRISTINA DiIORIO-STERLING
PHONE: (617)748-3356
E-MAIL: USAMA.MEDIA@USDOJ.GOV

HACKER CHARGED WITH PROVIDING DATA THEFT TOOL IN NATIONAL IDENTITY THEFT CASE

BOSTON, MA - A New York man was charged today in U.S. District Court with providing a "sniffer" program used to monitor and capture data including customers' credit and debit card information as it traveled across corporate computer networks.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan and Steven Ricciardi, Special Agent in Charge of the United States Secret Service, announced today that **STEPHEN WATT**, age 25, of New York, was charged in an Information with conspiracy.

The Information alleges that **WATT** was a member of a conspiracy which, between 2003 and 2008, unlawfully gained electronic access to corporate computer networks using various techniques, downloaded customers' credit and debit card information, and fraudulently used that information and sold the information to others for fraudulent use. The Information further alleges that **WATT** modified and provided a "sniffer" program used by the conspirators to monitor and capture the data crossing corporate computer networks.

If convicted on these charges, **WATT** faces up to five years imprisonment, to be followed by three years of supervised release and a $ 250,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the United States Secret Service. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen Heymann of Sullivan's Computer Crime Unit in collaboration with Jennifer Ellickson and Kimberly Keifer Peretti of the U.S. Department of Justice's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section.

The details contained in the Information are allegations. The defendant is presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

###