

Former EPA Contractor Employee Sentenced for Computer Crime

On June 23, 2005, a former EPA contractor employee was sentenced in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to 4 months in prison, 3 years of probation including 4 months of home detention, \$5,000 in restitution to EPA, and a \$100 special assessment. This sentencing follows a February 2004 jury trial during which the employee was found guilty of one count of using a computer to cause damage.

As an EPA contractor's computer systems administrator, the employee had access to and knowledge of EPA computer security and operations. The contractor terminated the employee in September 1999. The investigation determined that during the next 2 days, the employee, as an unauthorized user, gained access to the EPA network and deleted files, changed user passwords, and turned the computer system off.

While EPA assessed the damage and conducted repairs, EPA employees could not access their computer systems and could not do their work.

This investigation was conducted jointly with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.