

Additional Guilty Pleas and Sentencings in Software Piracy Case

During June and July 2007, three defendants pled guilty in U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada to a charge of conspiracy to commit copyright infringement. The defendants were members of a computer software piracy group known as the "Rogue Warriorz," a secretive underground organization that illegally altered and distributed copyrighted software, movies, and games over the Internet.

The three defendants were among 21 persons indicted in June 2002 as part of "Operation Bandwidth," a 2-year, multi-agency undercover operation to identify and prosecute entities and individuals involved with illegal access to computer systems and the piracy of proprietary software utilizing storage sites on the Internet.

At least 18 members of the group were hackers who had illegally accessed EPA computer systems to further the reproduction and distribution scheme. The three defendants were each sentenced to 36 months probation with credit for time served, and ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment and a fine of up to \$2,000. In addition, the judge ordered that all property previously seized be forfeited.

This investigation is being conducted jointly with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service. (Case Cost: \$571,310)