

# Police: Computer tech installed peeping software

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This photo provided by the Fullerton (Calif.) Police Department on Wednesday, June 8, 2011 shows Trevor Harwell. Police say Harwell, a Southern California computer repairman installed spyware on laptops that enabled him to snap and download photographs of women showering and undressing in their homes. (AP Photo/Fullerton (Calif.) Police Department)

(AP) -- A Southern California computer repairman suspected of installing spyware on laptops that enabled him to snap and download photographs of women showering and undressing in their homes was arrested Wednesday at his home, police said.

Police began investigating when a Fullerton resident complained about

suspicious messages appearing on his daughter's [computer](#) last year. Trevor Harwell installed software that took control of computer webcams on his clients' Mac laptops, Fullerton [police](#) Sgt. Andrew Goodrich said. He was released later Wednesday after posting \$50,000 bond, Goodrich said.

The software sent fake error messages telling users to "fix their internal sensor soon," and "try putting your laptop near hot steam for several minutes to clean the sensor," Goodrich said.

The error message prompted some victims to take their laptops into the bathroom with them when they showered, he said.

"Once he had access, he would take photographs of the users, usually women," Goodrich said. "Often, the female victims were undressed or changing clothes. Harwell then stored the photos on a remote server, and eventually downloaded them on his own computer."

Detectives seized hundreds of thousands of still images and videos from Harwell's computer and identified several victims, Goodrich said.

Investigators believe Harwell, a technician for Rezitech Inc., may have exploited computers connected to Biola University's internal network. Harwell, 20, is a former student at the La Mirada Christian college, where many of the victims attended.

Orange County Superior Court records show that Harwell faces 12 felony counts of [computer access](#) and fraud, The Orange County Register reported. It wasn't known Wednesday evening if Harwell had obtained an attorney.

Rezitech spokesman Travis Austin said the company took immediate action to cut off Harwell's access to their systems and data, and is

cooperating with investigators.

Harwell did not commit any of the alleged offenses while working for Rezitech, Austin said.

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