

Art project draws US Secret Service interest

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Products are displayed inside an Apple Store in New York City in May 2011. A New York electronic artist who took pictures of shoppers using computers in Apple stores as part of a project has drawn the attention of the US Secret Service.

A New York electronic artist who took pictures of shoppers using computers in Apple stores as part of a project has drawn the attention of the US Secret Service.

Kyle McDonald, 25, of Brooklyn, set up a [software program](#) on computers at two Apple stores in New York that took pictures of shoppers as they stared into the screen, the social media [news site](#) Mashable reported.

McDonald then posted the pictures on his Tumblr blog peoplestaringatcomputers.tumblr.com.

"I thought maybe (if) we could see ourselves doing this we would think more about our computers and how were using them," he told Mashable.

Writing on his [Twitter](#) feed at @kcimc on Thursday, McDonald said he had received a visit from Secret Service agents equipped with a search warrant related to "fraud and related activity in connection with computers."

"@secretsservice just stopped by to investigate... and took my laptop," he wrote. "Please assume they're reading any emails you send me."

Continuing on Twitter, McDonald said he had been in contact with the digital rights group the [Electronic Frontier Foundation](#).

"In contact with the @eff," he said. "They've encouraged me to stay quiet for now. lots of good discussion happening, very sorry i can't join in."

Replying to a question on Twitter, McDonald said he did not believe he had broken any laws.

"As i understand, photography in open spaces is legal unless explicitly prohibited," he said. "The only permission came from the ([Apple store](#)) guard."

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