

'Evil' Australian hacker faces 49 charges

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A man who used the online nickname "Evil" has been charged with hacking attacks that police Wednesday alleged could have caused considerable damage to Australia's national infrastructure.

The 25-year-old unemployed truck driver, who had been unable to find a job in information technology, faces 49 charges after a six-month investigation into his online activities.

They include hacking into the systems of Platform Networks, one of the 13 service providers for the [National Broadband Network](#) (NBN), the largest infrastructure project in Australia's history.

Potentially, customers could have lost their services, depending on the security back-up they had in place.

"While Platform Networks had strong cyber [security measures](#) in place, even the best [security systems](#) are only as strong as the weakest link," said Neil Gaughan, the federal police's High Tech Crime Operations manager.

"It only takes one user with a weak password to put an entire network at risk."

Police allege the man spent up to 20 hours a day on his [home computer](#) as he worked on the attack, motivated by ego after failing to secure a job in the IT sector.

"The Australian Federal Police will allege in court that this person acted with an extreme and unusual level of malice and with no regard to the damage caused, indiscriminately targeting both individuals and companies," said Gaughan.

He is due to appear in court Wednesday charged with one count of unauthorised modification of data to cause impairment, and 48 counts of unauthorised access to, or modification of restricted data.

The first charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years' jail while the second count carries a maximum sentence of two years.

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