

Romanian accused of hacking NASA-JPL computers

February 8 2012

(AP) -- The Los Angeles U.S. attorney's office says a federal grand jury has indicted a Romanian citizen on charges he hacked into 25 climate-research computers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

Prosecutors say Tuesday's indictment charges 25-year-old Robert Butyka with one count of unauthorized impairment of a protected computer.

The hacking in 2010 made computers in the Atmospheric Infrared Sounder Program unusable for two months while [malicious code](#) was removed and data restored.

The U.S. attorney's office says [NASA](#) worked with Romanian authorities, resulting in Butyka's conviction in Romania last month. He's been sentenced to three years in prison there and would face a 10-year term if convicted in the U.S.

Damage from the hacking is estimated at \$500,000, including costs of work on the computers and lost research time.

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