

Teenage hacker sentenced in UK for cyber-attacks

February 1 2013

A British court has sentenced a teenage hacker to youth rehabilitation after he and other members of the Anonymous movement carried out cyber-attacks targeting financial sites like PayPal and Visa.

Jake Birchall had admitted conspiring to impair the operation of computers in 2010 and 2011. The 18-year-old Birchall was sentenced Friday to 18 months of rehabilitation and 60 hours of unpaid work.

Three other co-defendants, aged 22 to 28, were given jail sentences of up to 18 months last week for their part in the attacks. They targeted groups involved in combating [Internet piracy](#) and companies that had stopped processing online donations to WikiLeaks.

The websites for Mastercard and [Visa](#) were disrupted, and [PayPal](#) said the attacks cost it 3.5 million pounds (\$5.5 million.)

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