

Indictment over hacking of Bush family email accounts

June 12 2014

A Romanian national using the online moniker "Guccifer" was indicted Thursday on charges of hacking into email accounts of high-profile people including a relative of former presidents George H.W. and George W. Bush.

The US Justice Department said Marcel Lehel Lazar, 42, also known as Guccifer, was indicted on charges of wire fraud, unauthorized access to a protected computer, aggravated [identity theft](#), cyberstalking and obstruction of justice.

The indictment comes over a year after a probe was launch over the breach of [email accounts](#) belonging to the former presidents as well as other members of their family.

The investigative website The Smoking Gun reported at the time that hackers had accessed several e-mail accounts and then published personal photos and private correspondence belonging to the former US leaders and their loved ones.

The hacker apparently intercepted photos that former president George W. Bush e-mailed to his sister showing paintings that he was working on, including self-portraits of him showering and in a bathtub, the report said.

Another picture showed the elder Bush in a hospital bed, a snapshot purportedly taken by his daughter, Dorothy Bush Koch, whose AOL

account was among those that was apparently hacked.

The Justice Department said the incidents occurred from December 2012 to January 2014.

"Lazar hacked into the email and social media accounts of high-profile victims, including a family member of two former US presidents, a former US cabinet member, a former member of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff and a former presidential advisor," the statement said, without indicating his current location.

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Citation: Indictment over hacking of Bush family email accounts (2014, June 12) retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-06-indictment-hacking-bush-family-email.html>

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