

Man pleads guilty in New York cybercrime case

November 22 2014

A California man has pleaded guilty in New York City for his role marketing malware that federal authorities say infected more than a half-million computers worldwide.

Brendan Johnston entered his plea to a charge of conspiracy to commit computer hacking before a Manhattan federal judge on Friday.

U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara (buh-RAH'-ruh) says the 24-year-old Thousand Oaks, California, resident helped market and sell a remote access tool for the BlackShades [malware](#). He says Johnston also provided technical assistance.

Johnston's attorney says he helped customers for less than a year and has accepted responsibility for his involvement.

Authorities say the computer program allowed cybercriminals to remotely access people's computers and webcams.

Investigators in Europe and the U.S. announced earlier this year the arrests of 97 people suspected of using BlackShades.

© 2014 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Man pleads guilty in New York cybercrime case (2014, November 22) retrieved 30 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2014-11-guilty-york-cybercrime-case.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.