

Ex-US scientist sentenced in attempted cyber-attack

April 12 2016

A former Nuclear Regulatory Commission scientist has been sentenced to a year and a half in prison for plotting a cyberattack on federal government computers.

Charles Harvey Eccleston was sentenced Monday in Washington's [federal court](#).

He pleaded guilty in February to attempting to insert a virus onto an Energy Department computer network.

Prosecutors say Eccleston, who was fired from the NRC in 2010, was a disgruntled ex-employee who attracted FBI attention after entering a foreign country's embassy in the Philippines and offering to sell email account information for U.S. government employees.

He later met with undercover FBI employees as part of a plot to deliver the computer virus. But prosecutors say the link he thought contained the [virus](#) was actually developed as part of the undercover operation and was inert.

© 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Ex-US scientist sentenced in attempted cyber-attack (2016, April 12) retrieved 1 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-04-ex-us-scientist-sentenced-cyber-attack.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.