

US man gets 18 months in 'Celebgate' nude photo hack

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A US man was sentenced to 18 months in prison for hacking the accounts of Hollywood stars, which led to the online release of private nude photos of Jennifer Lawrence, Kate Upton and other celebrities.

Ryan Collins, 36, was sentenced Wednesday in US District Court in

Pennsylvania for a felony violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

The computer hacking charges were related to illegally accessing "over 100 Apple and Google email accounts, including those belonging to members of the entertainment industry in Los Angeles," the US Justice Department said.

The "Celebgate" hack led to the online publication in 2014 of hundreds of nude photos of celebrities including Rihanna, Avril Lavigne and Gabrielle Union.

The statement did not refer to the victims by name, but several of the victims spoke publicly about the pictures.

In May, Collins entered a guilty plea in connection with hack, and admitted to a "phishing" scheme to obtain passwords, in order to then get nude pictures from the victims' cloud online storage accounts.

However, officials said there was no evidence that Collins published the pictures online.

"Hackers violate federal law whenever they access private information stored online and in digital devices," said Eileen Decker, US attorney for the central district of California.

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