

Briton faces court over Deutsche Telekom cyber attack

July 21 2017



A British man admitted in a German court to staging a large-scale cyber attack on Deutsche Telekom last year, saying he was acting for a Liberian client

A British man admitted in a German court Friday to staging a large-scale cyber attack on Deutsche Telekom last year, saying he was acting for a Liberian client.

The 29-year-old described as "the worst mistake of my life" the attack

that knocked more than a million German households offline in November and added his motivation was money.

The defendant, who was not named, was arrested in February at London's Luton airport on a European arrest warrant for attempted computer sabotage and extradited to Germany.

German police said the goal was to infect users' computers with a "botnet"—a network of web-connected machines that can be manipulated with malware and used to attack other online targets.

The Briton told the court he was paid \$10,000 (about 8,500 euros) by a Liberian telecom company which wanted to use the botnet to damage a rival company.

He said he had taught himself IT skills and attended a few programming courses, testifying with the help of a translator.

The verdict was expected on Friday, July 28. If found guilty, he faces up to 10 years' jail in Germany.

Around a million of Deutsche Telekom's 20 million customers were unable to connect to its network for several hours last November.

The attack, which the company said caused about two million euros of damage, ended when it advised customers to disconnect their routers and restart them after a software update.

The large-scale strike fuelled concerns over cyber security in Germany and officials have warned that more online assaults are possible ahead of a general election in September.

The country has already been the victim of repeated hacking [attacks](#) in

recent years.

In 2015, hackers targeted Germany's lower house of parliament in an attack that security services have since blamed on Russia.

Germany has also anxiously eyed the impact of leaked documents obtained by hackers during last year's US presidential campaign.

© 2017 AFP

Citation: Briton faces court over Deutsche Telekom cyber attack (2017, July 21) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2017-07-briton-court-deutsche-telekom-cyber.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.