

Guilty plea in Seattle 'botnet' case

5 May 2006

A California man pleaded guilty Thursday to charges stemming from a "botnet" attack last year that damaged U.S. Department of Defense computers.

Christopher Maxwell, 20, of Vacaville, faces up to 15 years in prison when he is sentenced by a federal judge in Seattle on Aug. 4.

Maxwell pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit computer fraud and to damage a protected computer, and intentionally damaging a protected computer by taking part in a botnet rampage triggered in December 2005.

The U.S. Attorney's office said the incident caused \$135,000 in damage to military computers in the United States and abroad. In addition, the system at Seattle's Northwest Hospital malfunctioned.

A botnet is created when a hacker launches a program on the Web that hijacks scores of computers and uses them to send out a torrent of unwanted adware.

Copyright 2006 by United Press International

APA citation: Guilty plea in Seattle 'botnet' case (2006, May 5) retrieved 30 November 2021 from <https://phys.org/news/2006-05-guilty-plea-seattle-botnet-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.