



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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**U.S. ARRESTS EX-EMPLOYEE FOR HACKING INTO  
FINANCIAL PUBLISHING FIRM'S COMPUTER NETWORK**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and MARK J. MERSHON, the Assistant Director-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), announced the arrest today of STEVAN HOFFACKER on charges relating to hacking into his former employer's computer network. HOFFACKER was charged with reading confidential e-mail messages about pending personnel moves and sending e-mail messages to the affected employees, tipping them off that their jobs were in jeopardy. As alleged in the Complaint unsealed earlier today:

The employer, Source Media, publishes financial market information and has approximately 1,000 employees. From approximately 1998 until his termination in 2003, HOFFACKER worked, at various times, as director of information technology and vice president of technology at Source Media and its predecessor company. In those positions, HOFFACKER had access to the passwords for the e-mail accounts of Source Media employees.

In approximately August and September 2006, a number of years after HOFFACKER's termination from the company, two individuals who were then employed by Source Media each received messages from a Yahoo! e-mail account alerting them that they might be losing their jobs. Before these anonymous e-mails were sent, these employees had been the subject of e-mail messages among senior Source Media employees discussing their employment status and possible termination.

Based on technical data logs that contain identification information about computers that access Source Media's computer network over the internet, records from the

company that provided cable modem service to HOFFACKER, records from Yahoo!, and other information, the FBI identified HOFFACKER both as the individual who hacked into Source Media's e-mail network on various occasions prior to the sending of the anonymous Yahoo! e-mails and as the user of the Yahoo! e-mail account from where the e-mails originated.

HOFFACKER was arrested this morning in Queens, New York and charged with one count of unauthorized access to a protected computer network. If convicted, HOFFACKER faces a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. HOFFACKER is expected to appear this afternoon before United States Magistrate Judge FRANK MAAS. HOFFACKER, 53, resides in Queens, New York.

MR. GARCIA praised the investigative work of the FBI's New York computer crimes squad.

Assistant United States Attorney NICHOLAS S. GOLDIN is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges and allegations contained in the Complaint are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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