



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FORMER CABLE EMPLOYEE SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR
STEALING EQUIPMENT FROM WAREHOUSE AND SELLING IT ON EBAY**

John E. Murphy, Acting United States Attorney, announced that Christopher Joe Holguin, age 33, of Odessa was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison for stealing approximately \$270,000 worth of DVRs, modems, HDMI cables and other equipment from the warehouse of his employer, Grande Communications, and selling them on eBay for personal enrichment.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Robert Junell ordered that Holguin pay approximately \$270,000 restitution to Grande Communications and be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term.

On January 12, 2009, Holguin pleaded guilty to an Information alleging a violation of the federal wire fraud statute. As part of his plea, Holguin admitted that from approximately November 2005 through September 2008, he worked as a warehouse coordinator for Grande Communications in Odessa. Among his duties was managing the company's inventory of DVR's, cable modems, HDMI cables, and other products it used in its business of providing cable television, Internet, and telephone services to business and residential customers.

Holguin acknowledged stealing hundreds of such items from the warehouse and selling them on the eBay website over a nearly three-year period. EBay records reflect that Holguin sold approximately \$270,000 worth of merchandise on the website during this time. Investigators believe the vast majority of what Holguin sold was stolen from his employer.

The case was investigated by the Odessa Police Department, with full cooperation and assistance from eBay. Assistant United States Attorney John S. Klassen prosecuted the matter for the Government.

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