

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Laura E. Duffy***

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U. S. Attorney Melanie K. Pierson (619) 557-5685

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - April 25, 2011

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that Oceanside resident Steven Stoyanoff was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego to serve 15 months in prison based on his conviction for trafficking in counterfeit Microsoft software. Co-defendant Michael Swedlow, who resides in the Chicago area, was also sentenced today to serve eight months in prison, followed by eight months of home detention. Both Stoyanoff and Swedlow were ordered to pay restitution of \$590,762 to Microsoft and their internet customers, to forfeit \$500,000, and to pay a fine of \$5,000 each.

In their pleas, Stoyanoff and Swedlow admitted that they sold \$500,000 of counterfeit Microsoft software during the period from July 2005 to March 2009 and wired money to China as payment for counterfeit Microsoft software, including Microsoft Windows XP and Microsoft Office 2003. The defendants further admitted that they then sold the counterfeit software over the Internet, using the company names “Wireless Now Computers” and “Whitebox Computers,” and mailed the software to customers throughout the United States, falsely representing that the software was genuine.

The case was investigated by postal inspectors of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and special agents

with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations.

DEFENDANTS

Criminal Case No. 09-CR-1936-W

Steven Stoyanoff
Michael Swedlow

Oceanside, California
Highland Park, Illinois

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Trafficking in Counterfeit Goods, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2320

INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES

U.S. Postal Inspection Service
Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations