



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**HACKER SENTENCED TO 24 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR
SELLING STOLEN MICROSOFT WINDOWS SOURCE CODE**

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 that WILLIAM P. GENOVESE, JR., a/k/a "illwill," a/k/a "xillwillx@yahoo.com" was sentenced today by United States District Judge WILLIAM H. PAULEY III to 24 months in federal prison for unlawfully selling and attempting to sell the source code- non-public and proprietary code in which software developers write programs- for the computer programs Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 and Windows 2000, which previously had been misappropriated by other individuals.

In sentencing GENOVESE, Judge PAULEY stated, "Mr. GENOVESE is a predator who has morphed through various phases of criminal activity and in the last few years has descended into the world of the Internet and is well on his way to being a cyber-predator."

On January 27, 2005, GENOVESE pled guilty to the federal Indictment, which charged GENOVESE with one count of unlawfully distributing a trade secret, in violation of the Economic Espionage Act, Title 18, United States Code, Section 1832.

According to the Indictment and Criminal Complaint previously filed, Microsoft learned on February 12, 2004 that significant portions of the source code for both Windows NT 4.0 and Windows 2000 - which Microsoft considers the "crown jewels" of the company - were misappropriated (the "Stolen Source Code") and unlawfully released onto, and distributed over, the Internet without Microsoft's authorization. That same day, according to the Complaint and GENOVESE's statements in court, GENOVESE posted a message on his Web site, "illmob.org," announcing that he had

obtained a copy of the Stolen Source Code and was offering it for sale. Access to a software program's source code can allow someone to replicate the program or find vulnerabilities.

Based on the Complaint and statements made at GENOVESE's guilty plea, an investigator with an online security firm hired by Microsoft sent GENOVESE an electronic payment and downloaded a copy of the Stolen Source Code from GENOVESE's site in February 2004. Additionally, according to the Complaint and GENOVESE's statements at his guilty plea, an undercover FBI agent also downloaded a copy of the Stolen Source Code from GENOVESE's site after the investigator had made another electronic payment to GENOVESE in July 2004.

As alleged in the Complaint, GENOVESE was convicted in March 2003 of eavesdropping, in violation of Connecticut General Statutes, and was sentenced to two years' probation. That charge allegedly arose from GENOVESE's unauthorized access to a number of victims' computers in Connecticut in 2000. According to the Complaint, GENOVESE accomplished this unauthorized access by infecting the victims' computers with a type of virus that allowed him to remotely access the computers. GENOVESE then allegedly accessed the victims' computers and captured their activities using keylogging software, also known as a keystroke logger, which is a program or hardware device that captures every key depression on a computer. GENOVESE then took control of the victims' computers and sent instant messages to the victims telling them what he was doing, according to the Complaint.

GENOVESE, 29, resides in Meriden, Connecticut.

Mr. GARCIA praised the outstanding efforts of the FBI's computer crimes squad. Mr. GARCIA also thanked Microsoft Corporation for its assistance in the investigation of this case.

Assistant United States Attorney ALEXANDER H. SOUTHWELL is in charge of the prosecution.

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