



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## NEW JERSEY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO E-MAIL SPAM CONSPIRACY

### MILLIONS OF E-MAIL ADDRESSES ILLEGALLY HARVESTED FROM COMPUTERS AT HUNDREDS OF UNIVERSITIES

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Beth Phillips, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a New Jersey man pleaded guilty in federal court today to his role in a nationwide e-mail spamming case that victimized students at hundreds of colleges and universities across the United States, including the University of Missouri.

**Paul Zucker**, 57, of Wayne, New Jersey, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs to the charge contained in an April 23, 2009, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty today, **Zucker** admitted that he participated in a spam e-mail scheme that, from January 2004 to April 2009, targeted hundreds of colleges and universities across the United States. Conspirators developed e-mail extracting programs, which they used to illegally harvest more than 8 million student e-mail addresses from servers at colleges and universities across the United States. According to today's plea agreement, conspirators used this database of e-mail addresses to send targeted spam e-mails selling various products and services to those students.

**Zucker** admitted that he provided proxies (computer servers that allow clients to make indirect network connections to other computers in order to camouflage the originating source of an e-mail), which were intended to be used both inside and outside of the United States for the purpose of sending spam e-mail messages.

**Zucker** also admitted that he provided bulk e-mail software that was designed to falsify e-mail header information and rotate subject line entries, reply-to addresses, message body content, and URLs in their messages. This allowed conspirators to penetrate university and college spam e-mail filters.

Conspirators initiated their spam campaigns, and therefore millions upon millions of spam e-mail messages, through the University of Missouri's computer

network, the plea agreement says, causing damage to the network and its users.

Under federal statutes, **Zucker** is subject to a sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew P. Wolesky. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)