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Chief Approval CCG

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

CASE NO. 8:18-cr-545-SDM-SPF

ALEXANDRU HABASESCU
a/k/a Alexander Habasescu

PLEA AGREEMENT

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c), the United States of America, by Roger B. Handberg, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, and the defendant, Alexandru Habasescu, and the attorney for the defendant, Igor Litvak, mutually agree as follows:

A. Particularized Terms

1. Count Pleading To

The defendant shall enter a plea of guilty to Count Two of the Superseding Indictment. Count Two charges the defendant with possession of unauthorized access devices, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1029(a)(3).

2. Maximum Penalties

Count Two carries a maximum sentence of ten years' imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, a term of supervised release of not more than three years, and a special assessment of \$100.

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3. Elements of the Offense(s)

The defendant acknowledges understanding the nature and elements of the offense(s) with which defendant has been charged and to which defendant is pleading guilty. The elements of possession of access devices are:

- (1) That the defendant knowingly possessed fifteen or more access devices;
- (2) Those devices were counterfeit or unauthorized;
- (3) The defendant possessed those devices with the intent to defraud; and
- (4) The defendant's conduct affected interstate or foreign commerce.

4. No Further Charges

If the Court accepts this plea agreement, the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida agrees not to charge defendant with committing any other federal criminal offenses known to the United States Attorney's Office at the time of the execution of this agreement, arising out of the facts detailed in this plea agreement.

5. Counts Dismissed

At the time of sentencing, the remaining count against the defendant, Count One, will be dismissed pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(A).

6. Mandatory Restitution to Victim of Offense of Conviction

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663A(a) and (b), defendant agrees to make full restitution to any victims identified in the case.

7. Guidelines Sentence

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(B), the United States will recommend to the Court that the defendant be sentenced within the defendant's applicable guidelines range as determined by the Court pursuant to the United States Sentencing Guidelines, as adjusted by any departure the United States has agreed to recommend in this plea agreement. The parties understand that such a recommendation is not binding on the Court and that, if it is not accepted by this Court, neither the United States nor the defendant will be allowed to withdraw from the plea agreement, and the defendant will not be allowed to withdraw from the plea of guilty.

8. Credit for Time Served in Extradition Detention

Pursuant to USSG §5G1.3(c) and 18 U.S.C. § 3584, at the time of sentencing, the United States will not oppose the defendant's request to the Court that any sentence imposed allow for the defendant to receive credit against that sentence for time served while the defendant pended extradition from Spain. The defendant understands that this recommendation or request is not binding on the Court, and if not accepted by the Court, the defendant will not be allowed to withdraw from the plea.

9. Adjusted Offense Level - Estimate Only

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(B), the United States, based on the information now available to it, estimates that the defendant's adjusted offense level is 29, as determined below:

<u>Guideline</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Levels</u>
USSG § 2B1.1(a)(2)	Base Offense	6
USSG § 2B1.1(b)(1)(K)	Specific Offense Characteristic; loss ¹	+18
USSG § 2B1.1(b)(2)(A)(i)	Specific Offense Characteristic; ten or more victims	+2
USSG § 2B1.1(b)(10)	Specific Offense Characteristic; outside U.S.	+2
USSG § 2B1.1(b)(11)(B)(i)	Specific Offense Characteristic; trafficking in access device	+2
USSG §3B1.1(c)	Role in Offense	+2
USSG §3E1.1	Acceptance of Responsibility	-3
Total Adjusted Offense Level		29

The defendant understands that this estimate is not binding on the court or the United States, and if not accepted by the Court, the defendant will not be allowed to withdraw from the plea.

¹ This enhancement may be based upon either the actual tax loss of \$5,567,458.19, or the amount that the site brought in of \$4,075,203.91. Both are detailed in the Factual Basis below.

10. Acceptance of Responsibility - Three Levels

At the time of sentencing, and in the event that no adverse information is received suggesting such a recommendation to be unwarranted, the United States will not oppose the defendant's request to the Court that the defendant receive a two-level downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility, pursuant to USSG § 3E1.1(a). The defendant understands that this recommendation or request is not binding on the Court, and if not accepted by the Court, the defendant will not be allowed to withdraw from the plea.

Further, at the time of sentencing, if the defendant's offense level prior to operation of subsection (a) is level 16 or greater, and if the defendant complies with the provisions of USSG § 3E1.1(b) and all terms of this Plea Agreement, including but not limited to, the timely submission of the financial affidavit referenced in Paragraph B.5., the United States agrees to file a motion pursuant to USSG § 3E1.1(b) for a downward adjustment of one additional level. The defendant understands that the determination as to whether the defendant has qualified for a downward adjustment of a third level for acceptance of responsibility rests solely with the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, and the defendant agrees that the defendant cannot and will not challenge that determination, whether by appeal, collateral attack, or otherwise.

11. Cooperation - Substantial Assistance to be Considered

Defendant agrees to cooperate fully with the United States in the investigation and prosecution of other persons, and to testify, subject to a prosecution

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for perjury or making a false statement, fully and truthfully before any federal court proceeding or federal grand jury in connection with the charges in this case and other matters, such cooperation to further include a full and complete disclosure of all relevant information, including production of any and all books, papers, documents, and other objects in defendant's possession or control, and to be reasonably available for interviews which the United States may require. If the cooperation is completed prior to sentencing, the government agrees to consider whether such cooperation qualifies as "substantial assistance" in accordance with the policy of the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, warranting the filing of a motion at the time of sentencing recommending (1) a downward departure from the applicable guideline range pursuant to USSG §5K1.1, or (2) the imposition of a sentence below a statutory minimum, if any, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(e), or (3) both. If the cooperation is completed subsequent to sentencing, the government agrees to consider whether such cooperation qualifies as "substantial assistance" in accordance with the policy of the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, warranting the filing of a motion for a reduction of sentence within one year of the imposition of sentence pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 35(b). In any case, the defendant understands that the determination as to whether "substantial assistance" has been provided or what type of motion related thereto will be filed, if any, rests solely with the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, and the defendant agrees that defendant cannot and will not challenge that determination, whether by appeal, collateral attack, or otherwise.

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12. Use of Information - Section 1B1.8

Pursuant to USSG §1B1.8(a), the United States agrees that no self-incriminating information which the defendant may provide during the course of defendant's cooperation and pursuant to this agreement shall be used in determining the applicable sentencing guideline range, subject to the restrictions and limitations set forth in USSG §1B1.8(b).

13. Cooperation - Responsibilities of Parties

a. The government will make known to the Court and other relevant authorities the nature and extent of defendant's cooperation and any other mitigating circumstances indicative of the defendant's rehabilitative intent by assuming the fundamental civic duty of reporting crime. However, the defendant understands that the government can make no representation that the Court will impose a lesser sentence solely on account of, or in consideration of, such cooperation.

b. It is understood that should the defendant knowingly provide incomplete or untruthful testimony, statements, or information pursuant to this agreement, or should the defendant falsely implicate or incriminate any person, or should the defendant fail to voluntarily and unreservedly disclose and provide full, complete, truthful, and honest knowledge, information, and cooperation regarding any of the matters noted herein, the following conditions shall apply:

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(1) The defendant may be prosecuted for any perjury or false declarations, if any, committed while testifying pursuant to this agreement, or for obstruction of justice.

(2) The United States may prosecute the defendant for the charges which are to be dismissed pursuant to this agreement, if any, and may either seek reinstatement of or refile such charges and prosecute the defendant thereon in the event such charges have been dismissed pursuant to this agreement. With regard to such charges, if any, which have been dismissed, the defendant, being fully aware of the nature of all such charges now pending in the instant case, and being further aware of defendant's rights, as to all felony charges pending in such cases (those offenses punishable by imprisonment for a term of over one year), to not be held to answer to said felony charges unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, and further being aware that all such felony charges in the instant case have heretofore properly been returned by the indictment of a grand jury, does hereby agree to reinstatement of such charges by recision of any order dismissing them or, alternatively, does hereby waive, in open court, prosecution by indictment and consents that the United States may proceed by information instead of by indictment with regard to any felony charges which may be dismissed in the instant case, pursuant to this plea agreement, and the defendant further agrees to waive the statute of limitations and any speedy trial claims on such charges.

(3) The United States may prosecute the defendant for any offenses set forth herein, if any, the prosecution of which in accordance with this

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agreement, the United States agrees to forego, and the defendant agrees to waive the statute of limitations and any speedy trial claims as to any such offenses.

(4) The government may use against the defendant the defendant's own admissions and statements and the information and books, papers, documents, and objects that the defendant has furnished in the course of the defendant's cooperation with the government.

(5) The defendant will not be permitted to withdraw the guilty pleas to those counts to which defendant hereby agrees to plead in the instant case but, in that event, defendant will be entitled to the sentencing limitations, if any, set forth in this plea agreement, with regard to those counts to which the defendant has pled; or in the alternative, at the option of the United States, the United States may move the Court to declare this entire plea agreement null and void.

14. Forfeiture of Assets

The defendant agrees to forfeit to the United States immediately and voluntarily any and all assets and property, or portions thereof, subject to forfeiture, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 982(a)(2)(B) and 1029(c)(1)(C), whether in the possession or control of the United States, the defendant or defendant's nominees.

The defendant agrees and consents to the forfeiture of these assets pursuant to any federal criminal, civil judicial or administrative forfeiture action. The defendant also agrees to waive all constitutional, statutory and procedural challenges (including direct appeal, habeas corpus, or any other means) to any forfeiture carried out in accordance with this Plea Agreement on any grounds, including that the

forfeiture described herein constitutes an excessive fine, was not properly noticed in the charging instrument, addressed by the Court at the time of the guilty plea, announced at sentencing, or incorporated into the judgment.

If the United States seeks the forfeiture of specific assets pursuant to Rule 32.2(b)(4), the defendant agrees that the preliminary order of forfeiture will satisfy the notice requirement and will be final as to the defendant at the time it is entered. In the event the forfeiture is omitted from the judgment, the defendant agrees that the forfeiture order may be incorporated into the written judgment at any time pursuant to Rule 36.

The defendant agrees to take all steps necessary to identify and locate all property subject to forfeiture and to transfer custody of such property to the United States before the defendant's sentencing. To that end, the defendant agrees to make a full and complete disclosure of all assets over which defendant exercises control directly or indirectly, including all assets held by nominees, to execute any documents requested by the United States to obtain from any other parties by lawful means any records of assets owned by the defendant, and to consent to the release of the defendant's tax returns for the previous five years. The defendant further agrees to be interviewed by the government, prior to and after sentencing, regarding such assets and their connection to criminal conduct. The defendant further agrees to be polygraphed on the issue of assets, if it is deemed necessary by the United States. The defendant agrees that Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11 and USSG § 1B1.8 will

not protect from forfeiture assets disclosed by the defendant as part of the defendant's cooperation.

The defendant agrees to take all steps necessary to assist the government in obtaining clear title to the forfeitable assets before the defendant's sentencing. In addition to providing full and complete information about forfeitable assets, these steps include, but are not limited to, the surrender of title, the signing of a consent decree of forfeiture, and signing of any other documents necessary to effectuate such transfers.

Forfeiture of the defendant's assets shall not be treated as satisfaction of any fine, restitution, cost of imprisonment, or any other penalty the Court may impose upon the defendant in addition to forfeiture.

The defendant agrees that, in the event the Court determines that the defendant has breached this section of the Plea Agreement, the defendant may be found ineligible for a reduction in the Guidelines calculation for acceptance of responsibility and substantial assistance, and may be eligible for an obstruction of justice enhancement.

The defendant agrees that the forfeiture provisions of this plea agreement are intended to, and will, survive the defendant, notwithstanding the abatement of any underlying criminal conviction after the execution of this agreement. The forfeitability of any particular property pursuant to this agreement shall be determined as if the defendant had survived, and that determination shall be

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binding upon defendant's heirs, successors and assigns until the agreed forfeiture, including any agreed forfeiture amount, is collected in full.

15. Removal - Consent and Cooperation

The defendant agrees and consents to removal from the United States following completion of the defendant's sentence and agrees to waive the defendant's rights to any and all forms of relief from removal or exclusion. The defendant further agrees to abandon any pending applications for relief from removal or exclusion, and to cooperate with the Department of Homeland Security during removal proceedings.

16. Removal - Notification

The defendant has been advised and understands that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to the defendant's immigration status if the defendant is not a citizen of the United States. Under federal law, the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty may be a removable offense. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding, however, and the defendant understands that no one, including the defendant's attorney or the district court, can predict to a certainty the effect of the defendant's conviction on the defendant's immigration status. The defendant nevertheless affirms that the defendant wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that may result from the defendant's guilty plea, even if the consequence is the defendant's automatic removal from the United States following completion of the defendant's sentence.

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B. Standard Terms and Conditions

1. Restitution, Special Assessment and Fine

The defendant understands and agrees that the Court, in addition to or in lieu of any other penalty, shall order the defendant to make restitution to any victim of the offense(s), pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663A, for all offenses described in 18 U.S.C. § 3663A(c)(1); and the Court may order the defendant to make restitution to any victim of the offense(s), pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663, including restitution as to all counts charged, whether or not the defendant enters a plea of guilty to such counts, and whether or not such counts are dismissed pursuant to this agreement. The defendant further understands that compliance with any restitution payment plan imposed by the Court in no way precludes the United States from simultaneously pursuing other statutory remedies for collecting restitution (28 U.S.C. § 3003(b)(2)), including, but not limited to, garnishment and execution, pursuant to the Mandatory Victims Restitution Act, in order to ensure that the defendant's restitution obligation is satisfied.

On each count to which a plea of guilty is entered, the Court shall impose a special assessment pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013. To ensure that this obligation is satisfied, the Defendant agrees to deliver a cashier's check, certified check or money order to the Clerk of the Court in the amount of \$100, payable to "Clerk, U.S. District Court" within ten days of the change of plea hearing.

The defendant understands that this agreement imposes no limitation as to fine.

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2. Supervised Release

The defendant understands that the offense(s) to which the defendant is pleading provide(s) for imposition of a term of supervised release upon release from imprisonment, and that, if the defendant should violate the conditions of release, the defendant would be subject to a further term of imprisonment.

3. Immigration Consequences of Pleading Guilty

The defendant has been advised and understands that, upon conviction, a defendant who is not a United States citizen may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future.

4. Sentencing Information

The United States reserves its right and obligation to report to the Court and the United States Probation Office all information concerning the background, character, and conduct of the defendant, to provide relevant factual information, including the totality of the defendant's criminal activities, if any, not limited to the count(s) to which defendant pleads, to respond to comments made by the defendant or defendant's counsel, and to correct any misstatements or inaccuracies. The United States further reserves its right to make any recommendations it deems appropriate regarding the disposition of this case, subject to any limitations set forth herein, if any.

5. Financial Disclosures

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3664(d)(3) and Fed. R. Crim. P. 32(d)(2)(A)(ii), the defendant agrees to complete and submit to the United States Attorney's Office

within 30 days of execution of this agreement an affidavit reflecting the defendant's financial condition. The defendant promises that his financial statement and disclosures will be complete, accurate and truthful and will include all assets in which he has any interest or over which the defendant exercises control, directly or indirectly, including those held by a spouse, dependent, nominee or other third party. The defendant further agrees to execute any documents requested by the United States needed to obtain from any third parties any records of assets owned by the defendant, directly or through a nominee, and, by the execution of this Plea Agreement, consents to the release of the defendant's tax returns for the previous five years. The defendant similarly agrees and authorizes the United States Attorney's Office to provide to, and obtain from, the United States Probation Office, the financial affidavit, any of the defendant's federal, state, and local tax returns, bank records and any other financial information concerning the defendant, for the purpose of making any recommendations to the Court and for collecting any assessments, fines, restitution, or forfeiture ordered by the Court. The defendant expressly authorizes the United States Attorney's Office to obtain current credit reports in order to evaluate the defendant's ability to satisfy any financial obligation imposed by the Court.

6. Sentencing Recommendations

It is understood by the parties that the Court is neither a party to nor bound by this agreement. The Court may accept or reject the agreement, or defer a decision until it has had an opportunity to consider the presentence report prepared

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by the United States Probation Office. The defendant understands and acknowledges that, although the parties are permitted to make recommendations and present arguments to the Court, the sentence will be determined solely by the Court, with the assistance of the United States Probation Office. Defendant further understands and acknowledges that any discussions between defendant or defendant's attorney and the attorney or other agents for the government regarding any recommendations by the government are not binding on the Court and that, should any recommendations be rejected, defendant will not be permitted to withdraw defendant's plea pursuant to this plea agreement. The government expressly reserves the right to support and defend any decision that the Court may make with regard to the defendant's sentence, whether or not such decision is consistent with the government's recommendations contained herein.

7. Defendant's Waiver of Right to Appeal the Sentence

The defendant agrees that this Court has jurisdiction and authority to impose any sentence up to the statutory maximum and expressly waives the right to appeal defendant's sentence on any ground, including the ground that the Court erred in determining the applicable guidelines range pursuant to the United States Sentencing Guidelines, except (a) the ground that the sentence exceeds the defendant's applicable guidelines range as determined by the Court pursuant to the United States Sentencing Guidelines; (b) the ground that the sentence exceeds the statutory maximum penalty; or (c) the ground that the sentence violates the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution; provided, however, that if the government exercises

its right to appeal the sentence imposed, as authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b), then the defendant is released from his waiver and may appeal the sentence as authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3742(a):

8. Middle District of Florida Agreement

It is further understood that this agreement is limited to the Office of the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida and cannot bind other federal, state, or local prosecuting authorities, although this office will bring defendant's cooperation, if any, to the attention of other prosecuting officers or others, if requested.

9. Filing of Agreement

This agreement shall be presented to the Court, in open court or in camera, in whole or in part, upon a showing of good cause, and filed in this cause, at the time of defendant's entry of a plea of guilty pursuant hereto.

10. Voluntariness

The defendant acknowledges that defendant is entering into this agreement and is pleading guilty freely and voluntarily without reliance upon any discussions between the attorney for the government and the defendant and defendant's attorney and without promise of benefit of any kind (other than the concessions contained herein), and without threats, force, intimidation, or coercion of any kind. The defendant further acknowledges defendant's understanding of the nature of the offense or offenses to which defendant is pleading guilty and the elements thereof, including the penalties provided by law, and defendant's complete

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satisfaction with the representation and advice received from defendant's undersigned counsel (if any). The defendant also understands that defendant has the right to plead not guilty or to persist in that plea if it has already been made, and that defendant has the right to be tried by a jury with the assistance of counsel, the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against defendant, the right against compulsory self-incrimination, and the right to compulsory process for the attendance of witnesses to testify in defendant's defense; but, by pleading guilty, defendant waives or gives up those rights and there will be no trial. The defendant further understands that if defendant pleads guilty, the Court may ask defendant questions about the offense or offenses to which defendant pleaded, and if defendant answers those questions under oath, on the record, and in the presence of counsel (if any), defendant's answers may later be used against defendant in a prosecution for perjury or false statement. The defendant also understands that defendant will be adjudicated guilty of the offenses to which defendant has pleaded and, if any of such offenses are felonies, may thereby be deprived of certain rights, such as the right to vote, to hold public office, to serve on a jury, or to have possession of firearms.

11. Factual Basis

Defendant is pleading guilty because defendant is in fact guilty. The defendant certifies that defendant does hereby admit that the facts set forth below are true, and were this case to go to trial, the United States would be able to prove those specific facts and others beyond a reasonable doubt.

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FACTS

From as early as in or around October 2014, and continuing through on or about January 24, 2019, Defendant ALEXANDRU HABASESCU, residing in Moldova, conspired to develop and administer a website referred to herein as the Marketplace. The Marketplace was an e-commerce storefront that facilitated the unauthorized sale of Microsoft RDP² login credentials—such as IP addresses³, usernames, and passwords—of compromised servers⁴ all over the world. Beginning in 2017, the Marketplace also engaged in the unauthorized sale of social security numbers belonging to United States citizens⁵. Both login credentials and social security numbers are access devices.

Once purchased, criminals used the RDP credentials to facilitate a wide range of illegal activity that included tax fraud, credit card fraud, and ransomware attacks. In total, the Marketplace offered over 350,000 compromised credentials for sale—including at least 150,000 in the United States and at least 8,000 in the State of Florida. Victims spanned the globe and industries, including: (i) local, state, and federal government infrastructure; (ii) hospitals; (iii) 911 and emergency services call

² “RDP” is a proprietary protocol developed by Microsoft, which allowed a user to connect to another computer over a network and control the computer remotely.

³ An “IP address” was a unique identifier assigned to every computer on the internet or a local network.

⁴ A “server” is a computer that provided services for other computers connected to it via a computer network—i.e., a set of computers connected together locally for the purpose of sharing resources—or the internet. Servers could be physically located and accessed anywhere with a network or internet connection.

⁵ These social security numbers were sold for \$5 per social security number, and the Marketplace netted between \$1.50 and \$2.50 for each sale, with the rest of the money paid to the source of the social security numbers.

centers; (iv) major metropolitan transit authorities; (v) accounting and law firms; (vi) pension funds; and (vii) universities. According to the Government's records, the Marketplace brought in \$4,075,203.91 from the sale of credentials and social security numbers, which was distributed among the various administrators and Marketplace sellers in accordance with their role. For his role, Habasescu earned between \$250,000 and \$300,000 in total.

Habasescu was the lead Marketplace developer, and was responsible for providing technical support for the website and, at times, providing customer support to buyers and sellers. The Marketplace administrator conspirators also authored articles and provided other information to Marketplace buyer conspirators to assist those buyer conspirators in committing fraud. For example, in October 2015 an article was posted describing RDP, and how to use it to commit fraud, in January 2017, an article was posted explaining how to create new RDP credentials on a server once the buyer had access to the server, and in July 2017, an article was posted promoting the new service of selling social security numbers (this last article was drafted by Habasescu).

While the Marketplace sold credentials fairly indiscriminately, the administrators preferred to sell servers belonging to U.S. Certified Public Accounting firms because so-called "tax" servers generated the most income for those buyers and therefore commanded the highest price on the Marketplace. Numerous chats between the administrators and one another, as well as chats between administrators and purchasers, make clear that selling "tax" servers was a Marketplace priority.

For example, in May 2017, a Marketplace buyer named Allen Levinson, Case No. 8:19-cr-156-CEH-TGW, complained to Habasescu that there were no tax servers available for purchase. In response, Habasescu (who had received instructions regarding how to respond from another administrator) indicated that such servers would be listed soon, but that the administrators had to check them for records prior to listing them. In another series of chats, Levinson informed Habasescu that he purchased a tax server containing information for two well-known U.S. celebrities. Habasescu remarked he hoped the server was expensive, since Levinson could now make a lot of money with the tax returns he could file. As an example of horsepawer's tax fraud, on or about August 9, 2017, Levinson purchased, through the Marketplace site, the credentials for an IP address resolving to a law firm in the Middle District of Florida (the Firm). On or about August 16, 2017, a fraudulent 2016 Form 1040 was filed for R.K., an individual residing in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, requesting a refund in the amount of \$14,915. The return was filed from the Firm's IP address within the Middle District of Florida and was transmitted outside of the Middle District of Florida to be processed. The refund was directed to be deposited to two different prepaid debit cards from Green Dot Bank. From the access devices he purchased from the Marketplace, Levinson made claims to the IRS claiming \$63,648,597.00 in tax refunds, to which he was not entitled; and received approximately \$5,567,458.19.

Over the course of the investigation, an online covert employee, while physically present in the Middle District of Florida, Tampa division, made several

purchases on the Marketplace. On January 26, 2017, the online covert employee purchased credentials belonging to a Middle District of Florida company from the Marketplace for \$14. On February 3, 2017, investigators traveled to the victim's office and informed them that their server had been compromised and obtained an image of the server. These records showed that on January 21, 2017, the victim server was accessed from a Marketplace command and control server. Seconds after the online covert employee bought the credentials, on January 26, 2017, victim's server was accessed from the Marketplace command and control server again. Additionally, after the server was purchased, another Marketplace server accessed the victim's server.

Additional purchases by the online covert employee are described further. On March 8, 2017, the online covert employee purchased credentials to a CPA firm in Middle District of Florida. On December 19, 2018, the online covert employee purchased the credentials a manufacturing business located in the Middle District of Florida. And on September 18, 2018, the online covert employee purchased social security numbers—and related information—belonging to 26 Florida residents.

12. Entire Agreement

This plea agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the government and the defendant with respect to the aforementioned guilty plea and no other promises, agreements, or representations exist or have been made to the defendant or defendant's attorney with regard to such guilty plea.

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13. Certification

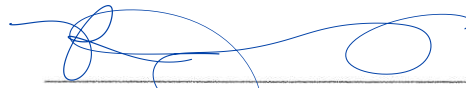
The defendant and defendant's counsel certify that this plea agreement has been read in its entirety by (or has been read to) the defendant and that defendant fully understands its terms.

DATED this 9th day of March, 2023.

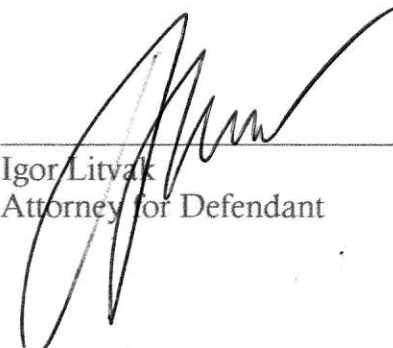


Alexandru Habasescu
Defendant


ROGER B. HANDBERG
United States Attorney



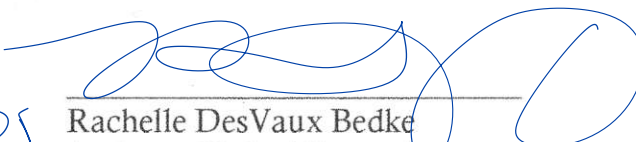
Rachel K. Jones
Assistant United States Attorney



Igor Litvak
Attorney for Defendant

for 

Carlton C. Gammons
Assistant United States Attorney
Deputy Chief,
Economic Crimes Section

for 

Rachelle DesVaux Bedke
Assistant United States Attorney
Chief, Economic Crimes Section