

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Luminosity Link / KFC Watermelon Arrest and Take Down.](#)

Armada - July 17, 2018, 9:40 am

Since no one else seems to want to discuss the Elephant in the room correctly. I shall address it. I do after all have an interest in what happens here.

So, I will start here.

This started yesterday (for me at least), when Brian Krebs emailed me.

Just an FYI email with a link to his article about all of this instances.

Source Article Info:

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

A 21-year-old Kentucky man has pleaded guilty to authoring and distributing a popular hacking tool called "LuminosityLink," a malware strain that security experts say was used by thousands of customers to gain unauthorized access to tens of thousands of computers across 78 countries worldwide.

Federal prosecutors say Colton Ray Grubbs of Stanford, Ky. conspired with others to market and distribute the LuminosityLink RAT, a \$40 Remote Access Tool that made it simple for buyers to hack into computers to surreptitiously view documents, photographs and other files on victim PCs. The RAT also let users view what victims were typing on their keyboards, disable security software, and secretly activate the webcam on the target's computer.

Grubbs, who went by the pseudonym "KFC Watermelon," began selling the tool in May 2015. By mid-2017 he'd sold LuminosityLink to more than 8,600 customers, according to Europol, the European Union's law enforcement agency.

Speculation that Grubbs had been arrested began surfacing last year after KFC Watermelon stopped responding to customer support queries on Hackforums[dot]net, the Web site where he primarily sold his product.

The sale and marketing of remote access tools, also known as remote administration tools, is not illegal in the United States, and indeed there are plenty of such tools sold by legitimate companies to help computer experts remotely administer computers.

However, these tools tend to be viewed by prosecutors instead as "Remote Access Trojans" when their proprietors advertise the programs as hacking devices and provide customer support aimed at helping buyers deploy the RATs stealthily and evade detection by anti-malware programs.

According to the indictment against him, Grubbs "recruited and encouraged co-conspirators to answer questions on Skype, an internet messaging service, from potential and actual purchasers of LuminosityLink seeking to use the software to get unauthorized and undetected access to victim computers and steal information."

Linking Grubbs to LuminosityLink was likely not a tall hurdle for prosecutors. A public filing at the Kentucky Secretary of State office lists Grubbs as the owner of Luminosity Security Solutions LLC.

However, there are indications that Luminosity was not Grubbs' first foray into making and selling malware tools. According to a February 2018 blog post by Palo Alto Networks, the Skype account connected to KFC Watermelon's identity on Hackforums is tied to the email address "codyjohnson1337@live.com; that email account was used in 2013 to register "plasmarat.pw," a similar RAT sold and marketed on Hackforums.

The street address listed by the Kentucky Secretary of State's office for Luminosity Security Solutions (127 Circle Dr., Stanford, KY) shows up in the original registration records for dozens of domains, including at least a half-dozen that early on listed the email address coltongrubbs@gmail.com. That same email address appears in the early registration records for barracudasec[dot]com, a domain that as far back as 2012 was identified as a popular "command and control" server that many denizens of Hackforums used to remotely administer large numbers of remotely commandeered computers or "bots."

Around the time that KFC Watermelon stopped responding to support requests on Hackforums, federal prosecutors were securing a guilty plea against Taylor Huddleston, a then 27-year-old programmer from Arkansas who sold the "NanoCore RAT." Like Grubbs, Huddleston initially pleaded not guilty to computer intrusion charges, arguing that he wasn't responsible for how customers used his products. That is, until prosecutors presented Skype logs showing that Huddleston routinely helped buyers work out how to use the tools to secretly compromise remote computers.

Grubbs' guilty plea could well lead to further arrests and prosecutions of customers who purchased and used LuminosityLink. Case in point: The author of the Blackshades Trojan — once a wildly popular RAT sold principally on Hackforums — was arrested along with dozens of his customers in a global law enforcement sweep in 2014.

Indeed, many former customers of LuminosityLink have posted to Hackforums that they are expecting similar treatment:

Grubbs initially pleaded not guilty, and his trial was slated to begin in August. But in a plea agreement released today, Grubbs admitted to conspiring to make and sell LuminosityLink, and to knowingly assisting customers in using his software to break into computers.

The plea agreement notes that on July 10, 2017, when Grubbs found out the FBI was about to raid his apartment, he hid the phone and debit card tied to his Bitcoin account, and also removed the hard drives from his computer and apartment prior to the search. "Three days later, Defendant transferred over 114 bitcoin from his LuminosityLink bitcoin address into six new bitcoin addresses," the agreement states.

The charges to which Grubbs has pleaded guilty carry punishments of up to 25 years in prison and as much as \$750,000 in fines, although any sentence the judge hands down in this case may be significantly tempered by U.S. Sentencing Guidelines.

- I WOULD LIST SOURCE, but domain is filtered, but you know where to find the article officially.

Now that being said, ignoring the articles contents itself.
Lets take a look at the one primary factor.

google.com/file/d/1XF6iQYKVU8pD7cSKIKdnN7yCcSX4NgQQ/view?usp=sharingKFC's Plea Deal

He plead Guilty, no contest, and now faces up to 20 years in Prison and a \$750k fine for damages.
If you read further in to the arrest reports, there was much more going on than simple sale of a Remote admin tool. and AGAIN this is what got my friends in trouble...

Meedman - July 17, 2018, 9:42 am

Thank you for this post!

Glad to see he's still alive but behind the wall --'

Almonds - July 17, 2018, 10:13 am

I saw a headline regarding this,

What else can I say?

luke - July 17, 2018, 10:17 am

Well, he knew what he was getting himself into.

Enronitis - July 17, 2018, 10:18 am

Meh.

Should of at least put up some sort of fight. Oh well.

Armada - July 17, 2018, 10:27 am

(Jul 17, 2018 10:18 AM)Enronitis Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Meh.

Should of at least put up some sort of fight. Oh well.

You know that was my straight up thought.

What Plea could have been possibly made here thats off the record?

The paperworks VERY clear, he can face up to 20 years in prison and \$750K in damages.
Forgetting his legal fees.

I am disappointed he did not put up a fight, but IMHO, to sign off that easily with no fight, they must have offered him something good.

I got concerns, but do not wish to voice them out of what it could cause towards others.

2SLiCKZ - July 17, 2018, 10:31 am

(Jul 17, 2018 10:27 AM)Armada Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You know that was my straight up thought.

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Dude was shook'd

His ass is done with the obstruction charges

Quote:The plea agreement notes that on July 10, 2017, when Grubbs found out the FBI was about to raid his apartment, he hid the phone and debit card tied to his Bitcoin account, and also removed the hard drives from his computer and apartment prior to the search. "Three days later, Defendant transferred over 114 bitcoin from his LuminosityLink bitcoin address into six new bitcoin addresses," the agreement states.

Armada - July 17, 2018, 10:33 am

(Jul 17, 2018 10:31 AM)Bankster Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Dude was shook'd

His ass is done with the obstruction charges
Yea I know, he Martha Stewarded himself....

???

LayersOSImodel - July 17, 2018, 10:43 am

Well, articles arnt the truth especially in these cases which is always perfect to afraid people and deter anyone who want to start these kinds of project.

Why did he plead guilty ? that's not normal, im sure he had a kind of contract with them, or not, who knows...

Armada - July 17, 2018, 10:46 am

(Jul 17, 2018 10:43 AM)LayersOSImodel Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Well, articles arnt the truth especially in these cases which is always perfect to afraid people and deter anyone who want to start these kinds of project.

Why did he plead guilty ? that's not normal, im sure he had a kind of contract with them, or not, who knows...

Ignore the article, read the court document....

Thats the bread and butter so to speak.

Mr. Robot - July 17, 2018, 10:49 am

(Jul 17, 2018 10:27 AM)Armada Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What Plea could have been possibly made here thats off the record?

You damn well know exactly what the plea is.

SIM-2053312 - July 17, 2018, 10:52 am

(Jul 17, 2018 10:49 AM)Mr. Robot Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You damn well know exactly what the plea is. What is it?

Armada - July 17, 2018, 10:53 am

(Jul 17, 2018 10:49 AM)Mr. Robot Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You damn well know exactly what the plea is. I am pouring over what I got available to me.

If read correctly the Plea deal is what they decided to NOT charge him with, but he admitted to. charges, 1,3, and 10...

Can you find what those charges were, I cant seem to?

h4ckerman - July 17, 2018, 10:57 am

Armada this could've happened to you too man

Mr. Robot - July 17, 2018, 10:58 am

(Jul 17, 2018 10:53 AM)Armada Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I am pouring over what I got available to me.

If read correctly the Plea deal is what they decided to NOT charge him with, but he admitted to. charges, 1,3, and 10...

Can you find what those charges were, I cant seem to?

Without going over it, off the top of my head it's money laundering, defrauding and probably has to do with his evading of information under an authorized search.

I'll have another read of it later today and see what I can find out from some colleagues but it honestly wasn't a lot of money. In total, they had under 200 BTC and that wasn't even mainly from sales, it was from botnet mining themselves and investing the BTC customers paid.

(Jul 17, 2018 10:57 AM)Kreg Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Armada this could've happened to you too man
Only if he decided to not cooperate with law enforcement/was doing something illegal.

Xerotic - July 17, 2018, 11:00 am

(Jul 17, 2018 10:43 AM)LayersOSImodel Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Well, articles arnt the truth especially in these cases which is always perfect to afraid people and deter anyone who want to start these kinds of project.

Why did he plead guilty ? that's not normal, im sure he had a kind of contract with them, or not, who knows...

Actually plea deals are extremely common. It probably happens the majority of criminal cases.

Problem - July 17, 2018, 11:05 am

What do you expect? Your selling malware publicly you know. How matter you advertise it's malware. You have to make a pretty penny but you need to be smart about it. Cover all your assets from Day One.

Mr. Robot - July 17, 2018, 11:05 am

(Jul 17, 2018 11:00 AM)Xerotic Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Actually plea deals are extremely common. It probably happens the majority of criminal cases.

Especially in cases like this when there are 15 directly involved individuals, a community they dislike, other similar programs/connections he has and the type of crime this is.

I don't expect him to put his interests in anyone/anything but himself.

Enronitis - July 17, 2018, 11:07 am

(Jul 17, 2018 10:27 AM)Armada Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You know that was my straight up thought.
What Plea could have been possibly made here thats off the record?

The paperworks VERY clear, he can face up to 20 years in prison and \$750K in damages.
Forgetting his legal fees.

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I got concerns, but do not wish to voice them out of what it could cause towards others.

Depends on what he knows, or is involved with.

Could be a sell-out agreement, testifying in a larger case.

I don't think he was offered something so good- more he was pressured into agreeing being he's young and probably doesn't know better.

He would of settled for better with a proper attorney and going through proceedings.

Mr. Robot - July 17, 2018, 11:09 am

(Jul 17, 2018 11:05 AM)Problem Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What do you expect? Your selling malware publicly you know. How matter you advertise it's malware. You have to make a pretty penny but you need to be smart about it. Cover all your assets from Day One.

Yeah, lemme just post a non incriminating example cuz y'know - you might only have 1 thread but you have lots of posts lmfao

V For Vendetta. - July 17, 2018, 11:10 am

(Jul 17, 2018 11:09 AM)Mr. Robot Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yeah, lemme just post a non incriminating example cuz y'know - you might only have 1 thread but you have lots of posts lmfao

Well there's no substantial proof, he could just be bs'ing.

Mr. Robot - July 17, 2018, 11:11 am

(Jul 17, 2018 11:07 AM)Enronitis Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Depends on what he knows, or is involved with. Could be a sell-out agreement, testifying in a larger case.

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He would of settled for better with a proper attorney and going through proceedings.

Indeed it is.

Lots of the users that were buying a license in the first place were killing it with bots and attacks - the private conversations and information such as other means of communication and payment(paypal emails) will be checked against all sales/contact.

This will of course lead to more investigations and arrests as time goes on.

(Jul 17, 2018 11:10 AM)V For Vendetta. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Well there's no substantial proof, he could just be bs'ing.

Simple look through his profile finds many results that lead offsite and more.

? ? ? ?

Only reason I bring it up is he said "You have to make a pretty penny but you need to be smart about it. Cover all your assets from Day One"

All that does is makes anyone law enforcement or not look into you more.

Problem - July 17, 2018, 11:12 am

(Jul 17, 2018 11:09 AM)Mr. Robot Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yeah, lemme just post a non incriminating example cuz y'know - you might only have 1 thread but you have lots of posts lmfao

Opps forgot to delete that one ?

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Only reason I bring it up is he said "You have to make a pretty penny but you need to be smart about it. Cover all your assets from Day One"

All that does is makes anyone law enforcement or not look into you more.
I mean I did stumble across this site when I was quite young.. Excuse that idiocy incriminating post.
Haha post the dumbest things as a child.

Mr. Robot - July 17, 2018, 11:16 am

Oh yeah, inb4 Armada started the investigation lead against him initially when talking about how to legally run his own - take out the competition right?

:)

Armada - July 17, 2018, 11:16 am

(Jul 17, 2018 11:12 AM)Problem Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Opps forgot to delete that one ?
Good one. lol

Too bad Deleted disabled now. ?

Look the fact is, they let him off with a hell of a lot of charges.
Hes still facing 20 years + \$750K potential damages.

What did he plead towards, he admitted guilt no contest to 3 charges, I can not figure out what those were though...???

Can an American maybe file under freedom of information act to figure out his OG charges maybe, Krebs cant even provide that it seems.

Problem - July 17, 2018, 11:16 am

(Jul 17, 2018 11:10 AM)V For Vendetta. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Well there's no substantial proof, he could just be bs'ing.
Indeed, I was bullshitting ?

Mr. Robot - July 17, 2018, 11:18 am

(Jul 17, 2018 11:12 AM)Problem Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Opps forgot to delete that one ?

I mean I did stumble across this site when I was quite young.. Excuse that idiocy incriminating post.
Haha post the dumbest things as a child.

Don't worry my dude. We all make mistakes.

(Jul 17, 2018 11:16 AM)Armada Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Good one. lol

Too bad Deleted disabled now. ?

Look the fact is, they let him off with a hell of a lot of charges.
Hes still facing 20 years + \$750K potential damages.

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Can an American maybe file under freedom of information act to figure out his OG charges maybe, Krebs cant even provide that it seems.
Clearly 1 of the charges is for obstruction.

(f) On July 10, 2017, after learning that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was about to perform an authorized search and seizure of his apartment, Defendant called the paypal user collecting his LuminosityLink payments and warned him to "clean your room."

Defendant gave his laptop to his roommate and asked that it be concealed in the roommate's car. Defendant concealed a debit card associated with his bitcoin account in his kitchen cabinet.

Defendant concealed a phone storing his bitcoin information in his roommate's closet.

Defendant removed the hard drives from his desktop computer and removed them from his apartment before the authorized search so that they would not be seized by the government.

Three days later, Defendant transferred over 114 bitcoin from his LuminosityLink bitcoin address into six new bitcoin addresses.

Not only that but this is the dumbest shit I have ever read.

Armada - July 17, 2018, 11:23 am

(Jul 17, 2018 11:16 AM)Mr. Robot Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Oh yeah, inb4 Armada started the investigation lead against him initially when talking about how to legally run his own - take out the competition right?

:)

Before he went offline suddenly we were talking about a global ban database, actually.....

?

Sigma - July 17, 2018, 11:23 am

So many RAT owners are being arrested. It is not even worth coding anymore.

LayersOSImodel - July 17, 2018, 11:24 am

(Jul 17, 2018 10:46 AM)Armada Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Ignore the article, read the court document....

Thats the bread and butter so to speak.

But its weird because a year ago a friend added him on skype for support and the conversation was like he avoided to have any kind of conversation about how to break into computer, my friend was clearly asking help on how to break into pc he literally avoided to speak on this way saying malware use is not allowed then he turned the conversation into professional way using words like server instead of malware or virus and client instead of bots,...

Armada - July 17, 2018, 11:25 am

(Jul 17, 2018 11:18 AM)Mr. Robot Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Clearly 1 of the charges is for obstruction. Clearly....

But still, I cant find the OG charge sheet...

Someone wants to search mine its openly available, why are his not, America has same policy.

Enronitis - July 17, 2018, 11:29 am

(Jul 17, 2018 11:16 AM)Armada Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Good one. lol

Too bad Deleted disabled now. ?

Look the fact is, they let him off with a hell of a lot of charges.
Hes still facing 20 years + \$750K potential damages.

What did he plead towards, he admitted guilt no contest to 3 charges, I can not figure out what those were though...???

Can an American maybe file under freedom of information act to figure out his OG charges maybe, Krebs cant even provide that it seems.

I'll see what I can dig up through the firm. ?

Eagle 95 - July 17, 2018, 11:30 am

20 years and \$750k to pay? It seems to me that's a bit excessive... but what would I know, I'm not familiar with US justice system.

Mac Miller - July 17, 2018, 11:35 am

I never knew KFC Watermelon but going to prison for 20 years is shit for anyone. Did they get any others on his team? Thanks for posting this btw it was a good read

Copywriter - July 17, 2018, 11:38 am

How old is KFC Watermelon?

V For Vendetta - July 17, 2018, 11:41 am

(Jul 17, 2018 11:38 AM)Copywriter Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) How old is KFC Watermelon?
9+10

Mr. Robot - July 17, 2018, 11:46 am

Is this relevant? Sorry had to use a laptop with 2gb of ram to render this.

Armada - July 17, 2018, 12:21 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 11:30 AM)Eagle 95 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) 20 years and \$750k to pay? It seems to me that's a bit excessive... but what would I know, I'm not familiar with US justice system.
Again, that is the MAXIMUM punishment....

Think thats important to note, theres been no decision on a sentence as of yet.
He admitted guilt and left his life in the judicial systems hands at this point.

I would never ever do that shit, fight like hell.
But they offered him something decent, so Im going to make a blind guess here.

Few years in a minimum security facility. living it out with some pool tables and shit.

Thats my guess.

c\$sh - July 17, 2018, 1:01 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 11:30 AM)Eagle 95 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) 20 years and \$750k to pay? It seems to me that's a bit excessive... but what would I know, I'm not familiar with US justice system.that's the max sentence and fine

he's not gonna get that unless he's dumb

JAS - July 17, 2018, 1:07 pm

They make everything sound so much worse than it acc is.

Mr. Kim - July 17, 2018, 1:12 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 01:01 PM)c\$sh Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) that's the max sentence and fine

he's not gonna get that unless he's dumb

He already plead guilty, it's not about him being dumb or not anymore. It's out of his hands ?

(Jul 17, 2018 12:21 PM)Armada Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Again, that is the MAXIMUM punishment....

Think thats important to note, theres been no decision on a sentence as of yet.
He admitted guilt and left his life in the judicial systems hands at this point.

I would never ever do that shit, fight like hell.

But they offered him something decent, so Im going to make a blind guess here.

Few years in a minimum security facility. living it out with some pool tables and shit.

Thats my guess.

^ This seems fairly plausible. I would be surprised if he gets more than 5 years, though it's certainly possible.

puth - July 17, 2018, 1:14 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 11:46 AM)Mr. Robot Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Is this relevant? Sorry had to use a laptop with 2gb of ram to render this.

youtube.com/watch?v=I8y2GQ9e8DM[/yt]

LMFAOOOOOO

some nice skills there

Account of the Gods - July 17, 2018, 1:27 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 10:46 AM)Armada Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Ignore the article, read the court document....

Thats the bread and butter so to speak.

i guess better to live month in tent than 20 yrs in prison.

well good job for him for making such advanced tool at age of 20. wow.

so the problem was that he was teaching others how to whack and stay undetected.

Mr. Robot - July 17, 2018, 1:28 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 01:14 PM)puth Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) LMFAOOOOOO

some nice skills there
Tried to get it done asap.

kiwi - July 17, 2018, 1:28 pm

The biggest piece of evidence against him, was him personally handling support for / knowingly helping customers that were using the tool illegally...

... it will get you guys every time.

Mr. Robot - July 17, 2018, 1:31 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 01:28 PM)kiwi Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The biggest piece of evidence against him, was him personally handling support for / knowingly helping customers that were using the tool illegally...

... it will get you guys every time.
*He replies to a thread that Armada made.

Account of the Gods - July 17, 2018, 1:33 pm

does that mean watermelon will be virgin till hes 40+ at least? lol feel sorry for him

Armada - July 17, 2018, 1:37 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 01:27 PM)Account of the Gods Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) i guess better to live month in tent than 20 yrs in prison.

well good job for him for making such advanced tool at age of 20. wow.

so the problem was that he was teaching others how to whack and stay undetected.
10/10 on the retard factor scale, I must admit.

None of that even made sense.....
??? ?

Account of the Gods - July 17, 2018, 1:40 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 01:37 PM)Armada Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) 10/10 on the retard factor scale, I must admit.

None of that even made sense.....
??? ?
im saying poor choices can end better

kiwi - July 17, 2018, 1:46 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 01:31 PM)Mr. Robot Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) *He replies to a thread that Armada made.
I feel like I could give good support to risk avoiding these types of charges, for people who code these types of tools.

... not self-proclaiming myself to be an expert on law, but I do often study.

Mr. Kim - July 17, 2018, 1:48 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 01:27 PM)Account of the Gods Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) well good job for him for making such advanced tool at age of 20. wow.

I mean, look where it got him though ?

Dont get me wrong, it's impressive someone so young could run an operation like this. If the krebs article is right he's been doing this type of stuff since he was 15 or so. Just a shame someone with his talent is gunna be a felon for the rest of his life now. I could be wrong, but I'm gunna guess that as part of his plea he wont be allowed to use a computer for a long time as well.

Account of the Gods - July 17, 2018, 1:50 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 01:48 PM)Mr. Kim Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I mean, look where it got him though ?

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yea most people have some retardation until they hit age about 23 where they dont care about consequences and brag about whacking/leave footprints/etc

if he just kept selling this tool as remote viewer then would be no prob i guess

Compulsive - July 17, 2018, 1:52 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 01:50 PM)Account of the Gods Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) yea most people have some retardation until they hit age about 23 where they dont care about consequences and brag about whacking/leave footprints/etc

if he just kept selling this tool as remote viewer then would be no prob i guess

Youre past 23 and you still have a ton of retardation from your threads.

Account of the Gods - July 17, 2018, 1:53 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 01:52 PM)Compulsive Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Youre past 23 and you still have a ton of retardation from your threads.

nope im 23 and im not bragging about me whacking skills. theres no retardation in my threads also ! if you have an issue just address it and we will together solve it ha ha but honestly if you call someone is a fagot and dont tell him why then ur teh fagot not him

no offence, i dont think ur fegot, but if u say something rude and dont say why, then ur not much better bruh

Mr. Kim - July 17, 2018, 1:56 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 01:50 PM)Account of the Gods Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) yea most people have some retardation until they hit age about 23 where they dont care about consequences and brag about whacking/leave footprints/etc

It's really a shame that he wasnt putting his talents to some other, not illegal, use during his youth. The guy very clearly could have had a legit, legally paying job in cyber security if he hadn't gotten locked up. I mean it's certainly possible he'll bounce back and by 25 have a well established career, but not if the feds ban him from the internet/computer use. All his talents will probably go to waste now ?

Compulsive - July 17, 2018, 1:58 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 01:56 PM)Mr. Kim Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) It's really a shame that he wasnt putting his talents to some other, not illegal, use during his youth. The guy very clearly could have had a legit, legally paying job in cyber security if he hadn't gotten locked up. I mean it's certainly possible he'll bounce back and by 25 have a well established career, but not if the feds ban him from the

internet/computer use. All his talents will probably go to waste now ?
Honestly some company is probably going to scoop him up.

He started when he was 15 and was able to do all of this. The man has some talent. In the Security world he would fit right in. I feel that employers would look at his accomplishments, not his consequences.

Mr. Kim - July 17, 2018, 2:00 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 01:58 PM)Compulsive Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Honestly some company is probably going to scoop him up.

He started when he was 15 and was able to do all of this. The man has some talent. In the Security world he would fit right in. I feel that employers would look at his accomplishments, not his consequences.

Oh im not thinking that employers wont hire him, the exact opposite actually. I think many employers would snatch him up. I'm thinking the feds will put a ban on his use of the internet/computers. I just dont know how successful you can be in IT if you cant use a computer .-.

Compulsive - July 17, 2018, 2:02 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 02:00 PM)Mr. Kim Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Oh im not thinking that employers wont hire him, the exact opposite actually. I think many employers would snatch him up. I'm thinking the feds will put a ban on his use of the internet/computers. I just dont know how successful you can be in IT if you cant use a computer .-.

I mean, maybe personal use computers/internet, but if you have a company willing to hire him then im assuming that they will have extensive monitoring on the system that he uses, work could still be done 9/5, then he goes back to a rural cave with no internet or computer usage.

Account of the Gods - July 17, 2018, 2:03 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 02:00 PM)Mr. Kim Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Oh im not thinking that employers wont hire him, the exact opposite actually. I think many employers would snatch him up. I'm thinking the feds will put a ban on his use of the internet/computers. I just dont know how successful you can be in IT if you cant use a computer .-.

that would be shitty, he has bigger skills at age of 20 than most people achieve till age of 40 lol

Mr. Kim - July 17, 2018, 2:04 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 02:02 PM)Compulsive Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I mean, maybe personal use computers/internet, but if you have a company willing to hire him then im assuming that they will have extensive monitoring on the system that he uses, work could still be done 9/5, then he goes back to a rural cave with no internet or computer usage.

I suppose it'll depend on the details of his plea/sentencing, I hope you're right though. I think it would be a huge shame if this dude's talent couldn't be used at all because of a fuckup when he was in his teens.

(Jul 17, 2018 02:03 PM)Account of the Gods Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) that would be shitty, he has bigger skills at age of 20 than most people achieve till age of 40 lol

Not only the raw technical skills though. Like the dude's an entrepreneur. He's been running his own companies and creating his own full tools since he was 15. That's not done with just technical knowledge, that takes a certain level of drive that frankly most people will never have.

JAS - July 17, 2018, 2:12 pm

I wonder what his family are thinking right now.

(Jul 17, 2018 02:04 PM)Mr. Kim Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I suppose it'll depend on the details of his

plea/sentencing, I hope you're right though. I think it would be a huge shame if this dude's talent couldn't be used at all because of a fuckup when he was in his teens.

Not only the raw technical skills though. Like the dude's an entrepreneur. He's been running his own companies and creating his own full tools since he was 15. That's not done with just technical knowledge, that takes a certain level of drive that frankly most people will never have.
Agreed.

sn0z - July 17, 2018, 2:18 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 10:18 AM)Enronitis Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Meh.
Should of at least put up some sort of fight. Oh well.
Thing is if you fight and lose they will throw the book at you and throw it hard.

sn0z - July 17, 2018, 2:21 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 10:58 AM)Mr. Robot Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Without going over it, off the top of my head it's money laundering, defrauding and probably has to do with his evading of information under an authorized search.

I'll have another read of it later today and see what I can find out from some colleagues but it honestly wasn't a lot of money. In total, they had under 200 BTC and that wasn't even mainly from sales, it was from botnet mining themselves and investing the BTC customers paid.

Only if he decided to not cooperate with law enforcement/was doing something illegal.
well everything is the same...

kfc and nanocore guy said they did not allow illegal use.. they evne banned users.. yet what happened? whats difference for the orcus seller

Mr. Kim - July 17, 2018, 2:21 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 02:18 PM)sn0z Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thing is if you fight and lose they will throw the book at you and throw it hard.

It's very likely he would be found guilty in court. Most jurors dont understand enough about computers to form an accurate understanding of the situation. And when he would have been found guilty he could expect a much longer sentence. 20+ years seems plausible given the obstruction charges. I think he made a good call taking the plea, but it's not my ass in court so I'm kinda just projecting ?

sn0z - July 17, 2018, 2:22 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 02:21 PM)Mr. Kim Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) It's very likely he would be found guilty in court. Most jurors dont understand enough about computers to form an accurate understanding of the situation. And when he would have been found guilty he could expect a much longer sentence. 20+ years seems plausible given the obstruction charges. I think he made a good call taking the plea, but it's not my ass in court so I'm kinda just projecting ?

yea obviously thats why i said what i said.. look at nanocore guy... i think he tried to fight and loss ...

Mr. Kim - July 17, 2018, 2:24 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 02:21 PM)sn0z Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) well everything is the same...

kfc and nanocore guy said they did not allow illegal use.. they evne banned users.. yet what happened? whats difference for the orcus seller

Armada actually does the things you said, Nanocore's author admitted to creating the tool with the

purpose of futhering cyber intrusions.

I could be wrong, but I think Armada has been very consistent during the entire lifespan of his product that he will not tolerate his tool being used illegally. Saying you wont allow your product to be used illegally, but then helping people use it illegally and actually preventing people from using your tool illegally are not the same thing,

Account of the Gods - July 17, 2018, 2:26 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 02:24 PM)Mr. Kim Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Armada actually does the things you said, Nanocore's author admitted to creating the tool with the purpose of futhering cyber intrusions.

I could be wrong, but I think Armada has been very consistent during the entire lifespan of his product that he will not tolerate his tool being used illegally. Saying you wont allow your product to be used illegally, but then helping people use it illegally and actually preventing people from using your tool illegally are not the same thing,

yea but armada is very loud exception tbh he brags about everything and reports to local police that their officers cant use handcuffs properly if I udnerstood well Imfao

(but that could possibly be lie because he lies a lot too like the time he said he avoided 10 bullets from gun then killed the guy)

sn0z - July 17, 2018, 2:27 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 02:24 PM)Mr. Kim Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Armada actually does the things you said, Nanocore's author admitted to creating the tool with the purpose of futhering cyber intrusions.

I could be wrong, but I think Armada has been very consistent during the entire lifespan of his product that he will not tolerate his tool being used illegally. Saying you wont allow your product to be used illegally, but then helping people use it illegally and actually preventing people from using your tool illegally are not the same thing,

Its not about what you claim., They will not learn. When you create something and put it in hands of peple and say "Im not responsible" .. You do become respnsible.. As you can see the US Justice Department is not stupid when it ocmes to this.. .They will use where you sell it , exact modifcations and use that too

Unless the orcus selelr decides to revea what magical super powers he has that the Lumionsity and Nanocore owners did not have to know who's abusing the software.. If LL and NC owners could stop all malicious use with the lclick of a button they would have... But like all malware here.. They know whawts going on the money coming is too convincing

Mr. Kim - July 17, 2018, 2:34 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 02:27 PM)sn0z Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Its not about what you claim., They will not learn. When you create something and put it in hands of peple and say "Im not responsible" .. You do become respnsible.. As you can see the US Justice Department is not stupid when it ocmes to this.. .They will use where you sell it , exact modifcations and use that too

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The difference is there was a lot of evidence that the author of Nanocore was ACTIVELY PROMOTING his tool being used illegally. No one is saying you should be able to stop everyone from abusing your tool. But when you know someone is abusing it and you further their activity, you've forfeited your right to claim you had no responsibility for their actions. If the author of

Nanocore simply was unable to stop people from abusing his tool, he would probably not be in the shit he got into. He was actively promoting the abuse of his tool, though, so what you're saying simply is not coherent in my opinion.

UpTheCrust - July 17, 2018, 2:37 pm

The entire US justice system is based around trying to get plea deals. Trials are really expensive and are tax payer funded so the prosecution tries to get plea deals for the majority of cases. Odds are they stacked as many charges as possible to try to hit the 20 years max to try to pressure KFC into taking a deal.

I would guess they'd be extra motivated here because it seems like for some of the charges they would need the jurors to understand how RATs and tech like bitcoin work which isn't guaranteed

Mr. Kim - July 17, 2018, 2:38 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 02:26 PM)Account of the Gods Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) yea but armada is very loud exception tbh he brags about everything and reports to local police that their officers can't use handcuffs properly if I understood well lmfao

(but that could possibly be lie because he lies a lot too like the time he said he avoided 10 bullets from gun then killed the guy)

I'm not saying anything for or against Armada as a person, I don't know the dude, I don't know if he's a prolific liar or not. I do, however, believe that he has every intention of banning people who abuse his tool, which cannot be said for the author of LL or Nanocore.

If Armada gets indicted at some point and evidence comes out that behind the curtains he's been teaching people how to make his tool FUD or something then sure, he should go to prison just like the author of Nanocore, LL, Blackshades, etc. But as it stands I see no evidence for that.

Deflate - July 17, 2018, 2:38 pm

Wait what if he pay the fine of 750k? He will be released?

Mr. Kim - July 17, 2018, 2:41 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 02:37 PM)UpTheCrust Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I would guess they'd be extra motivated here because it seems like for some of the charges they would need the jurors to understand how RATs and tech like bitcoin work which isn't guaranteed

This just kinda highlights why I think the plea was a good choice. 99% of jurors won't understand what the hell the case is even about, and they will probably just buy the "this is an evviiiiiiIII hacker!" narrative pushed by the feds. They won't be informed enough to understand the nuance and complexity that is malware, and as a result would probably just rule guilty based on what the charged were. Dude would probably be facing 20+ years if he was convicted, he's realistically facing 5 or so years because of the plea. I think that was a good choice, and I would have done it too.

(Jul 17, 2018 02:38 PM)Deflate Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Wait what if he pay the fine of 750k? He will be released?

No, it's not "a fine or prison time". You can't buy a "get out of jail free!" card. It's 750k as a maximum fine, and 20 years as a maximum prison sentence. Both can be issued, though in all likelihood he won't get fined or imprisoned for near those amounts.

Armada - July 17, 2018, 2:45 pm

You 2 need to calm the fuck down.. lol

puth - July 17, 2018, 2:47 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 02:38 PM)Deflate Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Wait what if he pay the fine of 750k? He will be

released?

if pays the 750k he wont be fucked in the ass by burt

thats all

lucky. - July 17, 2018, 2:47 pm

Damn, two things I expected to happen differently. One is his own account security and the trails he left, he should have known at some point to cut it off and worry more about his status since he became a big name. And I wish I fought the case some, but I guess that's him and his lawyers discretion since they know best regarding the case.

T0pi4ry - July 17, 2018, 5:10 pm

OMFG, Sad .

He's a great coder & Nice, Friendly person too, He didn't desesrve that .

R.I.P.

Armada - July 17, 2018, 5:13 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 02:47 PM)puth Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) if pays the 750k he wont be fucked in the ass by burt

thats all

Hes agreed to pay that on top of prison time, so, incorrect....

Ya'll need to know your laws...

(Jul 17, 2018 02:47 PM)lucky. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Damn, two things I expected to happen differently. One is his own account security and the trails he left, he should have known at some point to cut it off and worry more about his status since he became a big name. And I wish I fought the case some, but I guess that's him and his lawyers discretion since they know best regarding the case.

He registered the company, and did what he thought was viable, but clearly got screwed at the end, and it was not the direct sale of the software, ONCE AGAIN, they got him on something else.

RainSpider3000 - July 17, 2018, 6:04 pm

This is exactly why you program your own RAT if you are using it for malicious purposes. :P

And you DON'T share it with anybody no matter what. Even one person using your program will start getting information out there.

Mr. Kim - July 17, 2018, 6:16 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 06:04 PM)RainSpider3000 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This is exactly why you program your own RAT if you are using it for malicious purposes. :P

And you DON'T share it with anybody no matter what. Even one person using your program will start getting information out there.

An even better plan is to not be a criminal in the first place ?

RainSpider3000 - July 17, 2018, 6:20 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 06:16 PM)Mr. Kim Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) An even better plan is to not be a criminal in the first place ?

If you are able to create your own programs and go undetected, I think that shows that you are highly intelligent. Although I do agree with you, people should use their minds for more creative ideas that are not illegal.

Well spoken.

Mr. Kim - July 17, 2018, 7:30 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 06:20 PM)RainSpider3000 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If you are able to create your own programs and go undetected, I think that shows that you are highly intelligent. Although I do agree with you, people should use their minds for more creative ideas that are not illegal.

Well spoken.

Like dont get me wrong, I understand the temptation to use one's knowledge for self gain. Anyone with the knowledge required to create a sophisticated piece of malware struggles with the temptation to use it for personal gain. I just think that people can use that knowledge for better purposes if they really want to, and frankly I think that's in everyone's best interest. The honest path may not be as glorious or pay as well, but it's the morally right thing to do at the end of the day ?

EDIT: and yeah, hopefully it's obvious I dont think people who use their technical knowledge for person gain are stupid. The exact opposite, frankly. I just think many people around 20 dont make very good choices with how they should use their skillset to make the world a better place :/

moetron - July 17, 2018, 7:34 pm

Damn, that's actually crazy. I knew he got taken down a while back by LE but I didn't expect him to go down like that without a fight wtf.

Thanks for posting this Armada.

Mr. Kim - July 17, 2018, 7:50 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 07:34 PM)moetron Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Damn, that's actually crazy. I knew he got taken down a while back by LE but I didn't expect him to go down like that without a fight wtf.

Thanks for posting this Armada.

I honesty dont get why people are saying this was "going down without a fight". To me this is just using your brain to take the best statistical option on the table. If you'd like to go head-to-head with the FBI then by all means, have fun. You will lose that battle. If you wanna be a martyr so be it, but dont imply that people who dont wanna sacrifice their current standard of living and future job security are bad people ? ?

Armada - July 17, 2018, 7:52 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 07:50 PM)Mr. Kim Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I honesty dont get why people are saying this was "going down without a fight". To me this is just using your brain to take the best statistical option on the table. If you'd like to go head-to-head with the FBI then by all means, have fun. You will lose that battle. If you wanna be a martyr so be it, but dont imply that people who dont wanna sacrifice their current standard of living and future job security are bad people ? ?

I am honestly disliking you....

Im reserved comments for quite some time, but fuck bro.. STFU.

Mr. Kim - July 17, 2018, 8:17 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 07:52 PM)Armada Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I am honestly disliking you....

Im reserved comments for quite some time, but fuck bro.. STFU.

Feel free to not like me bro, I dont care ? . My point still remain. When you get an indictment from the FBI feel free to continue pushing your chest out like you're some sort of moral saint ?

You and I both know that when you inevitably get served a search warrant you'll be changing your tune from "how could you not go down without a fight?" to "oh christ, im so happy the feds decided to not ruin my life!"

You act tough when you have nothing to lose, but you and I both know you have nothing to back yourself up. You know the feds are waiting for you to slip up, assuming you haven't already. The FBI and NSA have been building a case against you for years, and you don't have a solid defense except perhaps a claim of ignorance. And, as we all know, ignorance of the law is no defense according to Aristotle and European common law. You will inevitably serve prison time for your arrogance, and I can't wait for that day ?

Armada - July 17, 2018, 8:21 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 08:17 PM)Mr. Kim Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Feel free to not like me bro, I don't care ? . My point still remain. When you get an indictment from the FBI feel free to continue pushing your chest out like you're some sort of moral saint ?

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You act tough when you have nothing to lose, but you and I both know you have nothing to back yourself up. You know the feds are waiting for you to slip up, assuming you haven't already. The FBI and NSA have been building a case against you for years, and you don't have a solid defense except perhaps a claim of ignorance. And, as we all know, ignorance of the law is no defense according to Aristotle and European common law. You will inevitably serve prison time for your arrogance, and I can't wait for that day ?

Quote:The FBI and NSA have been building a case against you for years, and you don't have a solid defense except perhaps a claim of ignorance. And, as we all know, ignorance of the law is no defense according to Aristotle and European common law. You will inevitably serve prison time for your arrogance, and I can't wait for that day

You and me both.....

Should be a shit show huh?

Kaleb - July 17, 2018, 8:24 pm

I've spoke to him on Steam since this all went down, he was online as recently as a month ago. Asked him if hes okay and he responded with a thumb up emote haha, pretty sure it was him as well but maybe not. His steam profile picture has also changed within the past month and I'm sure its him doing it. I figured if you got arrested for something like this they'd revoke your access to use PCs (at least I've heard of that in the past). Just glad he's somewhat okay.

Nuworld - July 17, 2018, 8:36 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 08:24 PM)Under the Radar Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I've spoke to him on Steam since this all went down, he was online as recently as a month ago. Asked him if hes okay and he responded with a thumb up emote haha, pretty sure it was him as well but maybe not. His steam profile picture has also changed within the past month and I'm sure its him doing it. I figured if you got arrested for something like this they'd revoke your access to use PCs (at least I've heard of that in the past). Just glad he's somewhat okay.

I would be careful there.

If you had read the court documents armada posted you would have read

All his systems where confiscated and he is not allowed to use PC or the internet to say the least.

Kaleb - July 17, 2018, 8:37 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 08:36 PM)Nuworld Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I would be careful there.

If you had read the court documents armada posted you would have read

All his systems where confiscated and he is not allowed to use PC or the internet to say the least.

I'm sure if anything its a friend of his or something controlling the account. I highly doubt any feds are using his steam account (and playing games on it because that's been happening) as well as changing his profile pic to different bands album artwork, maybe though. Regardless I just speak to him as a friend, nothing illegal =). It's unfortunate, just before this all went down last year I believe he said he was gonna try to get into making VPNs / antiviruses so he may have seen this all coming.

Vyxn - July 17, 2018, 8:37 pm

Hoping that all future developers in this area will now learn from this another incidents.

Mr. Kim - July 17, 2018, 9:10 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 08:37 PM)Vyxn Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Hoping that all future developers in this area will now learn from this another incidents.

They won't, but it's still nice to dream about ?

Armada - July 17, 2018, 9:21 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 09:10 PM)Mr. Kim Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) They won't, but it's still nice to dream about ?

There is a special place in "Hacker Hell" for people like you.

Ive exerpted and posted elsewhere, you can see what people think of your personal opinion now.
lol

Mr. Kim - July 17, 2018, 9:24 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 09:21 PM)Armada Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) There is a special place in "Hacker Hell" for people like you.

Ive exerpted and posted elsewhere, you can see what people think of your personal opinion now.
lol

If "Hacker Hell" means successful normal citizen, that's fine with me. You can neg me all you want snowflake, it wont change the fact you're on route for prison (:

EDIT: Hope you arne't so irresponsible to leave children fatherless because of your stupid "hacker" ego. Prison is in your future, and if kids exist in your life then not having a father is in their's (:

Armada - July 17, 2018, 9:27 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 09:24 PM)Mr. Kim Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If "Hacker Hell" means successful normal citizen, that's fine with me. You can neg me all you want snowflake, it wont change the fact you're on route for prison (:

I chose that reason for a very special reason.

- It applies to you.

Im gonna throw you on Ignore now, youve proven no salt to my behalf. nor do I give one flying fuck about your opinion.

Good night my good prince in armor (?)

Vyxn - July 17, 2018, 10:32 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 09:10 PM)Mr. Kim Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) They won't, but it's still nice to dream about ?

It's happening and it won't be a dream anymore.

Armada - July 17, 2018, 10:36 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 09:42 PM).Lowkey Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Oh Armada what twisted webs we weave. KFC was a cool dude IF memory serves.

I dont but stickies for no good reason..

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=5863108>

divino2017 - July 17, 2018, 11:39 pm

so he was caught because he was using skype, right?

puth - July 17, 2018, 11:50 pm

(Jul 17, 2018 08:24 PM)Under the Radar Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I've spoke to him on Steam since this all went down, he was online as recently as a month ago. Asked him if hes okay and he responded with a thumb up emote haha, pretty sure it was him as well but maybe not. His steam profile picture has also changed within the past month and I'm sure its him doing it. I figured if you got arrested for something like this they'd revoke your access to use PCs (at least I've heard of that in the past). Just glad he's somewhat okay.

you got duped by an imposter haha