

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Bitfinex Hack Convict Ilya Lichtenstein Released Early Under U.S. First Step Act](#)

Stanley - January 12, 2026, 10:20 pm

Bitfinex Hack Convict Ilya Lichtenstein Released Early Under U.S. First Step Act

Ilya Lichtenstein, who was sentenced to prison last year for money laundering charges in connection with his role in the massive hack of cryptocurrency exchange Bitfinex in 2016, said he has been released early.

In a post shared on X last week, the 38-year-old announced his release, crediting U.S. President Donald Trump's First Step Act. According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons' inmate locator

<https://thehackernews.com/2026/01/bitfinex-hack-convict-ilya-lichtenstein.html>

Hackers - January 13, 2026, 7:14 am

Lol these fools walked with over 119,000 bitcoin and then... wait for it...

Quote:the couple's role came to light following the purchase of Walmart gift cards using the stolen bitcoin at an unnamed virtual currency exchange. The gift cards were redeemed using Walmart's iPhone app under an account in Morgan's name.

I'm convinced that most of the people who steal the most crypto have no fucking clue what they are doing and probably stumbled into a vuln, or stole more than they could've ever possibly planned for.

Steals 120k bitcoin... tries to launder it with Walmart gift cards in their personal name.

Lol

Considering there are still thousands of bitcoin missing, I have no idea why they're being released without contingencies in place.