

Nigerian National Appears On Charges Relating To Computer Hacking Scheme That Targeted Government Employees - GSA Office of Inspector General

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Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

District of New Jersey

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWARK, N.J. - A Nigerian national extradited from Canada will appear in court today for his alleged role in a scheme that defrauded vendors of office products valued at nearly \$1 million by "phishing" e-mail login information from government employees, U.S. Attorney Craig Carpenito announced.

Olumide Ogunremi, a/k/a "Tony Williams," was charged by indictment on Sept. 28, 2018, with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud. He was extradited to the District of New Jersey on Sept. 26, 2019, and appeared today before U.S. District Judge Susan D. Wigenton in Newark federal court, where he pleaded not guilty and was detained without bail.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court:

From July 2013 through December 2013, Ogunremi and other conspirators perpetrated a computer hacking and theft scheme targeting United States government agencies' email systems and Government Services Administration (GSA) vendors. The ring employed "phishing" attacks, which used fraudulent e-mails and websites that mimicked the legitimate e-mails and web pages of U.S. government agencies, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Unwitting employees of those agencies visited the fake web pages and provided their e-mail account usernames and passwords.

Ogunremi and his conspirators used these stolen credentials to access the employees' e-mail accounts in order to place fraudulent orders for office products, typically printer toner cartridges, from vendors who were authorized to do business with U.S. government agencies. Ogunremi and his conspirators directed the vendors to ship the fraudulent orders to individuals in New Jersey and elsewhere to be repackaged and ultimately shipped to other locations overseas, which were controlled by Ogunremi and his conspirators. Once the orders were received in Nigeria, Ogunremi and his conspirators sold the toner cartridges to another individual on the black market for profit.

On June 10, 2014, Abiodun Adejohn, a/k/a "James Williams," 30, of Nigeria, pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud conspiracy, and was later sentenced to three years in prison.

The wire fraud conspiracy carries a maximum potential penalty of 20 years in prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine.

U.S. Attorney Carpenito praised special agents of the EPA-OIG, under the direction of Thomas Muskett,
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General Services Administration OIG, under the direction of SAC Jamie Willemin; Department of Commerce OIG, under the direction of SAC Duane Townsend; Department of Defense Cyber Field Office, under the direction of SAC Jeffery Thorpe; and the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gregory W. Ehrie in Newark, with the investigation leading to Ogunremi's arrest.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sophie E. Reiter, of the U.S. Attorney's Office Public Protection Unit in Newark.

Defense counsel: John McGovern Esq., Newark

Source: U.S. Department of Justice [press release](#).