

In 2000 NASA, and the Pentagon was targeted by a cyber attack committed by a 15-year-old. The teen is known as “c0mrade” was convicted to six months in jail for attacking computers that supported the International Space Station, and the Pentagon’s weapons computer system. c0mrade had intercepted more than 3,300 emails, stole passwords, and retrieved other information.

The teen was the first juvenile in history to be incarcerated for cyber security crimes. And would later confess to accessing 13 computers, and downloading \$1.7 million NASA software. Jonathan James had no motivation behind the attacks other than having fun. Before the NASA attack, James had a history of breaching systems, including his Miami-Dade County school, and changed his scores.

Jonathan James said he knew the programming language C ‘like the back of his hand’ and blamed the government for having an unsecured system. During the investigation, it was clear that James never deleted files, changed passwords, or ran viruses.

In response to the attack, NASA shut down its computers for three weeks to repair and check for system and software damage totaling \$41,000. NASA in recent years has been the victim of over 6,000 cyber-attacks, forcing them to rethink their strategy in cyber defense. NASA has increased its cybersecurity in network monitoring, identity management, and recreating its IT plan.