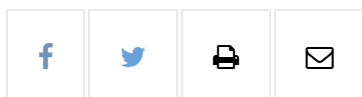




UPI ARCHIVES

FEB. 21, 1986

Teenage hacker pleads innocent to computer trespass



SEATTLE -- A teenage computer whiz accused of retrieving sensitive data from sophisticated systems at four companies pleaded innocent to computer trespassing in a case that sent a chill through the business community.

Michael P. Wilkerson, 18, of Kirkland was accused of peeking into the files of business computers and gaining access to secrets and accounts.

Investigators said he had a perception 'that he was number one' and tapped into the systems for the intellectual thrill.

'My real concern, ultimately, is the kids who go beyond this level and say, 'Hey, you mean I could have printed checks out while I was in there?'" said King County Deputy Prosecutor Ivan Orton, who expects Wilkerson to switch his Thursday plea of innocent to guilty under a plea bargain deal that includes a 90-day jail sentence.

Police said Wilkerson roamed through computerized business

files at Resources Conservation Co., Kenworth Truck and Sundstrand Data Control Co. by using standard password codes.

A fourth computer break-in at Microsoft Inc. was traced to the phone of a 16-year-old boy who knew Wilkerson, police said. The boy, who was not charged, said he hacked into the Microsoft computer through information supplied by Wilkerson.

The computer raids last September and October ended when one of the companies discovered its security had been breached and notified police, who traced the calls to Wilkerson.

Wilkerson allegedly used several computers to search telephone lines at random for numbers that linked his terminals with company computers.

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July 12 (UPI) -- An alligator was spotted swimming in a creek in a Pennsylvania park, police confirmed.

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July 11 (UPI) -- A section of the University of Colorado Boulder campus was closed Tuesday when a black bear wandered into the area and climbed a tree.

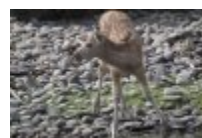
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