

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consisting of two overlapping parallelograms. The front one is blue and the back one is a light green. They are positioned diagonally, with the blue one partially covering the green one.

George Hotz and Sony PlayStation

Evan Hill

Cause

- On Jan. 11, 2011, George Hotz and associates of the group fail0verflow were sued by SCEA because Hotz et. al. jailbroke and reverse engineered the Sony PS3
- The official title of the suit is: *Sony Computer Entertainment America, Inc. v. Hotz*
- The list of charges filed against Hotz:
 - Violating the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (17 U.S.C. § 1201)
 - Violating the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(2)(c))
 - Contributory copyright infringement (17 U.S.C. § 501)
 - Violating California Comprehensive Computer Data Access and Fraud Act (§ 502)
 - Breach of Contract (related to the PlayStation Network User Agreement)
 - Tortious interference
 - Misappropriation
 - Trespass
- Information Reference:
<https://www.engadget.com/2011/01/12/sony-foll-ows-up-officially-sues-geohot-and-fail0verflow-o-ver-ps/>



Image Source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:3D_Judges_Gavel.jpg

Image Source:

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sony_PlayStation-3-2001A-wController-L.jpg



Immediate Aftermath

- In response to the lawsuit, Carnegie Mellon University Computer Science Professor David S. Touretzky mirrored Hotz's writings and issued a statement supporting that Hotz's publication is within his right to free speech.
- Link: <https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~dst/GeoHot/>



Image Source:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/
File:David S. Touretzky.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:David_S._Touretzky.jpg)

Some Funny Stuff

- On February 12, 2011, Hotz posted a one-minute diss track against Sony on his official YouTube channel in relation to the lawsuit. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iUvuaChDEg>
- On February 19, 2011, Hotz started a blog about the Sony lawsuit.
 - The blog can be found linked on Hotz's personal website: <http://geohot.com/>





The Big Cybersecurity Moment

- On Mar. 6, 2011, the court issued an approval that Sony's lawyers were allowed access to all the IP addresses of all the people who visited geohot's blog for the purposes of establishing jurisdiction. Sony said the server logs would demonstrate that many of those who downloaded Hotz's hack reside in Northern California — thus making San Francisco a proper venue for the case.
- Source: <https://www.wired.com/2011/03/geohot-site-unmasking/>

The Big Cybersecurity Moment Pt. 2



Image Source:
https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Anonymous_us.svg

In response to Sony's access to the IP addresses (as mentioned on the previous slide), Anonymous attacked Sony

Image Source:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Anonymous_emblem.svg



Case Resolution

- On April 11, 2011, it was revealed that Hotz and Sony had reached a settlement out of court. This included a permanent injunction against Hotz doing any more hacking work on any Sony products to prevent any future firmware release from being decrypted.
- Source:
<https://www.gamespot.com/articles/sony-hotz-settlement-details-surface/1100-6308347/>



Technology of the Hack, Pt. 1



Image Source:

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:CELL_BE_processor_PS3_board.jpg

- By exploiting the Other OS feature of the PS3, Hotz was able to obtain read and write access to system memory and hypervisor level access to the CPU. Hotz then released this exploit to the public, which Sony responded to by removing Other OS via firmware update.
- In July 2010, Hotz responded to this by saying that he abandoned his efforts
- Sources:
 - <https://web.archive.org/web/20100101084713/http://geohotps3.blogspot.com/2009/12/real-challenge.html>
 - <https://web.archive.org/web/20100129034435/http://geohotps3.blogspot.com/2010/01/hello-hypervisor-im-geohot.html>
 - <https://gamingbolt.com/the-ps3-just-too-difficult-to-crack>



Technology of the Hack, Pt. 2

- On December 29, 2010, hacking group fail0verflow did a presentation at the 27th Chaos Communications Congress where they exposed a mistake of Sony in their usage of ECDSA signatures without publishing the corresponding private key. This key was used by Sony to prevent piracy. On January 2, 2011, Hotz posted a copy of the private key of the PlayStation 3 on his website. These keys were later removed from his website as a result of legal action by Sony against fail0verflow and Hotz. In response to his continued publication of PS3 exploit information, Sony filed on January 11, 2011, for an application for a temporary restraining order (TRO) against him in the US District Court of Northern California.
- Sources:
 - <https://fahrplan.events.ccc.de/congress/2010/Fahrplan/events/4087.en.html>
 - <https://web.archive.org/web/20110106074158/http://psx-scene.com/forums/f6/geohot-here-you-ps3-root-key-now-hello-world-proof-74255/>

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