

The New York Times

National Desk; 1

COMPUTER ENTRIES IDENTIFIED BY F.B.I.

By JOSEPH B. TREASTER

937 words

23 October 1983

The New York Times

NYTF

Late City Final Edition

English

Copyright 1983 The New York Times Company. All Rights Reserved.

The Federal authorities engaged in a nationwide investigation of unauthorized entry into computers say that intruders have tampered with the electronic mail of about 18 corporations and Government agencies that subscribe to the same communications service.

Spokesmen for several of the corporations said no trade secrets or other sensitive information was transmitted through the electronic mail service that is provided by a Virginia company and that they suffered no significant losses. The service is known as Telemail.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, in an affidavit requesting a warrant for a search of an office on Long Island, identified four of the corporations that had been victims of unauthorized intruders as the Raytheon Company, the RADA Corporation, Coca-Cola U.S.A. and the 3M Company.

It said the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Department of Agriculture were among the Government agencies whose electronic mail was tampered with.

Joseph P. Erb, the chief of the Operations and Telecommunications Division of the Department of Agriculture in Washington, said he knew of no unauthorized entries into the department's electronic mail. But he added, "It's obvious the F.B.I. knows something we don't." In Atlanta, Dolores Sanchez, a spokesman for Coca-Cola U.S.A., would not say whether there had been intruders in her company's electronic mail. "I can't comment on it," she said.

One Federal agent said that only a half-dozen of the 18 corporations and agencies were named in the request for the search warrant because "these were the ones we pretty much had nailed down. I don't think we have information yet on just what was done with all the others."

However, one of the companies named, the RADA Corporation, was not listed in standard reference listings of American companies, and Federal investigators said they did not know where the company was situated or what it produced. Search at Stony Brook

The affidavit had been used to obtain a warrant to search an office at the FM radio station of the State University of New York at Stony Brook on Oct. 13. In the search a computer and other equipment owned by Frank P. Burgert, a part-time student and part-time engineer at the station, were confiscated.

The raid was one of 15 carried out by agents around the country on Oct. 12 and Oct. 13 in the investigation into unauthorized entry and use of the Telemail service operated by the G.T.E. Telenet Communications Corporation in Vienna, Va. The agents seized thousands of dollars worth of computers and equipment. No suspects were charged, and there were no arrests.

James E. Mull, a spokesman for the Alexandria field office of the bureau, which is serving as the headquarters for the Telemail investigation, refused to comment on the affidavit. He said he understood that all the affidavits for

search warrants in the investigation had been sealed and it was "probably a clerical error" that the affidavit in the Long Island search had been made available in the Federal District court in Brooklyn.

In Lexington, Mass., A. Newell Garden, a spokesman for the Raytheon Company, a diversified electronics concern, said his company had lost no data to intruders.

He said Telemail was not widely used among Raytheon's 75,000 employees and that the company had been paying the minimum monthly fee of \$500 for the service. In contrast, NASA officials said they had been paying an average of \$21,200 a month for Telemail, and Mr. Erb of the Department of Agriculture estimated the monthly bill for his agency at about \$5,000. 3M Reports No Damage

In St. Paul, Minn., Pete N. Holste, a spokesman for the 3M Company, the makers of Scotch Tape and dozens of other products, said that at least one of the company's 45 divisions used Telemail extensively and that members of that unit learned of intruders in the system last Monday when they were issued new passwords by the Virginia company.

He said he knew of "no damage at all" and said he did not believe 3 M was "terribly worried" about the intrusions.

In Washington, Louis Lushina, who has responsibility for the Telemail service at NASA, said of the intrusions: "I don't think people should feel it's a game."

"First of all," he said, "if people go in and use the system it's costing someone money, either the firm or the operators of the system. It's not a very sensible or appropriate thing to do."

Mr. Lushina said some NASA messages had been destroyed, but he did not know how many. Six Raids in New York

Besides the raid at Stonybrook, five others were conducted in New York State in Scarsdale, Albany, Ithaca, Rochester and Port Jefferson.

Most of those named in the search warrants were teen-agers, but there was also a 47-year-old clinical psychologist in Council Bluffs, N.Y., and the 26-year-old engineer at the Stonybrook radio station. In Rochester the agents confiscated equipment owned by a young couple and in Ithaca their targets were two Cornell University freshmen.

The investigation was begun Aug. 29 after Telenet told the bureau it had discovered "unidentified intruders" in the electronic mail service it provides to 130 clients.

In obtaining the search warrants, the bureau said it had information that suspects had violated wire fraud statutes by using telephone lines to illegally obtain computer services. There is no Federal law against unauthorized entry into a computer system.

Document NYTF000020050512dfan009iz

Search Summary

Text	
Date	All Dates
Source	Newspapers: All
Author	All Authors
Company	3M Company
Subject	All Subjects
Industry	All Industries
Region	United States
Language	English
Results Found	4,351
Timestamp	17 July 2018 11:24