

# International raid targets data-stealing computer virus: US

WASHINGTON, USA: An international dragnet has dismantled a global computer hacker network, which used a sophisticated computer virus to steal millions of dollars from companies and consumers, the US Justice Department said.



Evgeniy Mikhailovich Bogachev has been detained and charged in the US for creating a sophisticated cybercrime syndicate. Image: [Easy Branches](#)

Gameover Zeus, which first appeared in September 2011, stole bank information and other confidential details from victims.

According to FBI investigators, the virus infected between 500,000 and a million computers in 12 countries, creating a network of "bots" the hackers could "infiltrate, spy on, and even control, from anywhere they wished."

"Gameover Zeus is the most sophisticated botnet the FBI and our allies have ever attempted to disrupt," said FBI Executive Assistant Director Anderson.

The FBI blamed the Gameover Zeus botnet for the theft of more than US\$100m, obtained by using the stolen bank data and then "emptying the victims' bank accounts and diverting the money to themselves."

The bust also targeted another computer virus, dubbed "Cryptolocker," which appeared in September 2013.

The virus encrypted the computers of its victims and demanded a ransom, often in excess of US\$700, in exchange for the password to unlock it.

## Stole US\$27m in just two days

Investigators say the cyber criminals amassed more than US\$27m in just the first two months.

Russian Evgeniy Mikhailovich Bogachev, 30, an alleged administrator of the network, was charged in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with 14 counts including conspiracy, computer hacking, bank fraud and money laundering in the Gameover

Zeus and Cryptoblocker schemes.

Bogachev, sometimes called "Slavik" or "Pollingsoon" was also charged in Omaha, Nebraska with "conspiracy to commit bank fraud" in relation to an earlier incarnation of Gameover Zeus.

"Evgeniy Bogachev and the members of his criminal network devised and implemented the kind of cyber crimes that you might not believe if you saw them in a science fiction movie," said Leslie Caldwell, Deputy Attorney General.

US investigators worked with counterparts in Australia, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Canada, Ukraine, and Britain, as well as the European Cybercrime Centre, according to a statement.

They were also aided by private companies, including Dell, Microsoft, Afiliis, Deloitte and Symantec.

Victims are urged to contact a site created by the Department of Homeland Security with information. [Homeland Security](#)

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