



Awareness in Action: Cyber Insider Threat

The charge of violating the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act is a felony that carries a maximum five years in federal prison and \$250,000 in fines.

Jason Needham – HNA Engineering



Jason Needham

- 45-year-old co-owner of HNA Engineering
- Former employee at engineering firm Allen & Hoshall
- August 4, 2017: Sentenced to 18 months in prison, two years supervised release, and nearly \$173,000 in restitution for illegally accessing a competing firm's computer network.

What Happened

- Needham resigned from Allen & Hoshall in 2013 to open his own firm.
- Between 2014 and 2016, Needham repeatedly accessed the file-sharing network and email accounts of Allen & Hoshall's servers to download digitally rendered engineering schematics and more than 100 PDF documents containing project proposals and budgetary documents.
- The FBI investigation determined Needham accessed the network, compromising both employee and client information.
- Needham admitted to accessing, on hundreds of occasions, the email account of a former colleague at Allen & Hoshall, which provided Needham access to the firm's marketing plans, project proposals, company fee structures and the rotating account credentials for the company's internal document-sharing system.



Insider Threat Indicators

- Anomaly: A prospective client received a proposal from Needham that incorporated the exact same language as one from Allen & Hoshall.
- The Allen & Hoshall IT staff found a breach of the firm's computer network and reported it to the FBI.

Impacts

- Needham used his unauthorized access to view, download and copy proprietary business information worth \$425,000.
- Cybercrimes, electronic snooping and illegally accessing electronic information remains one of the greatest insider threats against commercial industry's proprietary information.



Learn More

This case study examined a real-life insider threat. Your awareness is key to protecting our national security from insider threats like this one. Visit the Center for Development of Security Excellence's website (<http://www.cdse.edu>) for additional case studies, information, materials, and training or go directly to the Insider Threat Tool Kit at <http://www.cdse.edu/toolkits/insider/index.php>

If you SEE something, SAY something.