

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Laura E. Duffy***

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***For Immediate Release***

### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - September 10, 2010

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that Andrew Michael Shelnutt was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in San Diego by the Honorable Jeffrey T. Miller to serve 48 months in federal custody, based on Shelnutt's convictions for intentionally causing damage to a protected computer and possession of child pornography. In March 2010, Shelnutt pled guilty to each offense.

During his guilty plea, Shelnutt admitted that the victim of the computer intrusion was CariNet, Inc., a company that operates a large computer server hosting facility in San Diego, California. Shelnutt was a former CariNet employee. Between October 2008 and November 9, 2008, Shelnutt repeatedly accessed CariNet's computer network without authorization and caused damage. Specifically, Shelnutt changed CariNet's network configuration and deleted the computer logs that had recorded his unauthorized activity. As a result of the intrusion, CariNet incurred a loss in excess of \$5,000.

According to court records, federal agents searched Shelnett's residence and home computer in connection with the computer intrusion investigation. As a result of that search, the agents discovered that Shelnett possessed child pornography. In fact, as part of his guilty plea, Shelnett admitted that he knowingly possessed computer media containing more than 600 visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

CariNet reported the computer intrusion to law enforcement authorities and cooperated fully with the investigation. This case was investigated by the Cybercrime Squad of the San Diego Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

**DEFENDANT**

**Case Number: 09CR3477-JM**

Andrew Shelnett

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Count 1 - Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1030(a)(5) & (c)(4)(B)(i) - Intentionally Causing Damage to a Protected Computer

Maximum Penalties: 10 years' imprisonment and \$250,000 fine per count

Count 3 - Title 18, United States Code, Section § 2252(a)(4)(B) - Possession of Child Pornography

Maximum Penalties: 10 years' imprisonment and \$250,000 fine per count

**AGENCY**

Federal Bureau of Investigation