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UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE LEADS INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION OF HACKING INTO FEDERAL RESERVE BANK *Malaysian National Faces Federal Indictment*

(Washington, D.C.) – An international investigation into hacked computer systems has resulted in a federal indictment against Lin Mun Poo, a resident and citizen of Malaysia. The indictment was announced today by the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York.

The four-count indictment charges Poo, 32, with hacking into a computer network of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Ohio. He is also charged with possessing more than 400,000 stolen credit and debit card account numbers allegedly obtained by hacking into various computer systems of other financial institutions.

"As today's technology continues to evolve, cybercriminals use these advances and enhancements to perpetrate an expanding range of crimes," said Brian Parr, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Secret Service New York Field Office. "These crimes not only affect our nation's financial infrastructure, but are also an ongoing threat to our national security. The Secret Service is committed to deploying cutting edge investigative practices and technology in order to bring these offenders to justice."

The investigation into Poo by the Secret Service's New York/New Jersey Electronic Crimes Task Force uncovered a history of compromising computer servers belonging to financial institutions, defense contractors and major corporations, and selling or trading the information obtained from these businesses. Poo was arrested on October 21, 2010, after traveling to the U.S. to obtain additional stolen financial account information from other hackers.

Hours after arriving at John F. Kennedy International Airport, Secret Service agents arrested Poo and seized his heavily encrypted laptop. A forensic examination of the laptop uncovered a massive quantity of financial account data and personal identifying information that he allegedly obtained by hacking into numerous systems including FedComp, a data processor for federal credit unions.

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The defendant also exploited a vulnerability he found within a network of the Federal Reserve Bank in Cleveland, Ohio, and allegedly hacked into that network. The investigation also determined that in August 2010, Poo hacked into the computer system of a Department of Defense contractor that provides management for transport and operations systems, potentially compromising highly sensitive military logistics information.

Led by the New York Field Office, the investigation was international in scope, involving a number of offices from the Secret Service and the cooperation of several Department of Justice divisions. Secret Service offices, including the Cleveland Field Office, the Dallas Field Office, the John F. Kennedy International Airport Resident Office, and the Criminal Investigative Division's Cyber Intelligence Section participated in the investigation. The Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs, Computer Crimes and Intellectual Property Section and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York were integral to pursuing the case.

It should be noted that the subject in this matter has only been charged with a criminal offense. Individuals are presumed innocent until being convicted in a criminal court.

About the United States Secret Service

The U.S. Secret Service has taken a lead role in mitigating the threat of financial crimes since the agency's inception in 1865. As technology has evolved, the scope of the U.S. Secret Service's mission has expanded from its original counterfeit currency investigations to also include emerging financial crimes. As a component agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Secret Service has established successful partnerships in both the law enforcement and business communities – across the country and around the world – in order to effectively combat financial crimes.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For questions concerning this release, please contact the United States Secret Service Office of Government and Public Affairs at 202-406-5708. A high resolution version of the photo attached on the next page is available upon request.



U.S. Secret Service special agents assigned to the New York/New Jersey Electronic Crimes Task Force examine evidence seized during an international investigation into hacked computer systems and financial institutions. A Malaysian national was indicted on federal charges on November 18, 2010, as a result of the investigation. *Photo courtesy of the United States Secret Service.*