



**United States Attorney's Office District of
Connecticut
Press Release**

**August 29,
2008**

**NEW YORK MAN INVOLVED IN SOFTWARE PIRACY
CONSPIRACY IS SENTENCED**

Nora R. Dannehy, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, today announced that ROBERT HARDICK, also known as "tcut," 58, of Getzville, New York, was sentenced yesterday, August 28, by Senior United States District Judge Ellen Bree Burns in New Haven to three years of probation, the first six months of which must be served in home confinement, for conspiring to commit criminal copyright infringement. HARDICK pleaded guilty to the charge on May 14, 2008.

According to documents filed with the Court and statements made in court, HARDICK and others participated in the "warez scene," which is an underground online community consisting of individuals and organized groups who use the Internet to engage in the large-scale, illegal distribution of copyrighted software. In the warez scene, certain participants (known as "suppliers") are able to obtain access to copyrighted software, video games, DVD movies, and MP3 music files, often before those titles are even available to the general public. Other participants, known as "crackers," then use their technical skills to circumvent or "crack" the digital copyright protections. Others, known as "couriers," then distribute the pirated software to various file storage sites ("FTP sites") on the Internet for others to access, reproduce, and further distribute.

HARDICK and others helped to establish and maintain the FTP site known as "The Boxer Rebellion" ("TBR") and initially hosted that site at his home. In addition, HARDICK helped to populate the TBR site by accessing other FTP sites and downloading pirated works from them onto the TBR site. In return, HARDICK received unlimited access to all of the pirated copies of copyrighted works on the other sites, known as "TBR," "NRH," "TMBG," and "TEN." From approximately June 2002 to April 2003, HARDICK uploaded more than 62,000 files and downloaded more than 300 files from the TBR site.

This case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Edward Chang of the District of Connecticut and Clement J.

McGovern from the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property
Section of the Department of Justice.

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