



# Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2008  
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CRM  
(202) 514-2007  
TDD (202) 514-1888

## **OREGON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO SELLING COUNTERFEIT SOFTWARE WORTH \$1 MILLION**

WASHINGTON — An Oregon man pleaded guilty today to selling counterfeit computer software with a retail value of more than \$1 million, in addition to aggravated identity theft and mail fraud, announced Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division Alice S. Fisher and Karin J. Immergut, U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon. This case is part of the Justice Department's initiative to combat online auction piracy.

Jeremiah Joseph Mondello, 23, of Eugene, Ore., pleaded guilty to one count each of criminal copyright infringement, aggravated identity theft and mail fraud before U.S. District Court Judge Ann L. Aiken in Eugene. Mondello faces up to 27 years in prison, a maximum fine of \$500,000 and three years of supervised release. Sentencing has been set for July 23, 2008.

According to documents filed in court, between December 2005 and October 2007, Mondello initiated thousands of separate online auctions, using more than 40 fictitious usernames and online payment accounts to sell copies of counterfeit software and receive the illicit money from those sales. Mondello generated more than \$400,000 in personal profit as a result of the sales.

In addition, Mondello admitted to stealing individuals' identifying information to establish online payment accounts in their names. Mondello acquired victims' names, bank account numbers and passwords by using a computer keystroke logger program to surreptitiously obtain this information. The keystroke logger program installed itself on the victim's computer and then recorded the victim's name and bank account information as the information was being typed. The program then electronically sent the information back to Mondello, and he used this stolen information to establish the online payment accounts.

Including today's plea, the Department of Justice has secured 29 convictions involving online auction and commercial distribution of counterfeit software. The Department of Justice's initiative to combat online auction piracy is just one of several steps being undertaken to address the losses caused by intellectual property theft and hold responsible those defendants engaged in criminal copyright infringement.

Mondello's case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Cyber Crimes Center and offices in Seattle, Portland, Ore., and Medford, Ore. The case is being prosecuted by Trial Attorney Marc Miller of the Criminal Division's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section and Sean B. Hoar, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of

Oregon. The Software and Information Industry Association, a trade association which represents leading computer software companies, provided significant assistance to the investigation.

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