

Crime Report: USA vs Telesforo Aviles

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USA vs Telesforo Aviles: Explained

Personal privacy is one of the most scared rights that individuals require in the digital age that we are living in. Every second of the day is filled with hackers trying to invade the lives of millions around the globe. While some of them reside halfway around the world compared to their victims, sometimes they are a little closer than you think.

ADT Security Services is one of the leaders in home and commercial security in the United States. They employ a network of more than 17,000 professionals to serve more than 6 million customers throughout the U.S. These customers rely of ADT to provide security and protection to their homes and business through cameras, alarms and monitoring service. ADT is an extra layer of privacy protection that helps people sleep at night. What would happen if one of their professionals were to violate this built trust?

On January 21, 2021 35 year old Telesforo Aviles pleaded guilty to charges of computer fraud in Texas Federal Court. Over the span of four and half years, Aviles gained unauthorized access more than 9,600 times to the ADT accounts of 220 customers in the Dallas, Texas area (ADT, 2021). Aviles admitted that he would add his personal email address to customers' ADT Pules accounts which gave him real-time access to the customers video surveillance systems. "Mr. Aviles took note of which homes had attractive women, then repeatedly logged into these customers' accounts in order to view their footage for sexual gratification, he admits. Plea papers indicate he watched numerous videos of naked women and couples engaging in sexual activity inside their homes." (Dooley, 2021).

As of this reporting in February 2021, Telesforo Aviles has yet to be formally sentenced by the Texas Federal Court. It is speculated that he may be sentence up to five years in federal prison for computer fraud. Millions of people put their trust into large corporations such as ADT

for their security and protection. This case goes to show that sometimes those who are out to violate your privacy are the same people you have the most amount of trust with.

Federal Law Violations

Fraud and related Activity in connection with computers

- Violation of 18 U.S.C § 1030(a)(2)(C)
 - Whoever intentionally accesses a computer without authorization or exceeds authorized access, and thereby obtains information from any protected computer.
- Violation of 18 U.S.C § 1030(c)(2)(B)(ii)
 - The punishment for an offense under subsection (a) or (b) of this section is a fine under this title or imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both, in the case of an offense under subsection (a)(2), or an attempt to commit an offense punishable under this subparagraph, if the offense was committed in furtherance of any criminal or tortious act in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States or of any State.

Personal Views

I believe that what Telesforo Aviles did was completely unethical. We live in a society where our personal privacy is what we treasure the most. Every day more and more surveillance systems are being installed around the U.S. by the government. While they may track our every move outside of our home, what happens within our own walls is not for public consumption. Millions of people put their trust with security companies to keep them safe, and what Aviles did was a complete violation of this trust. I believe that ADT should have been able to track this situation sooner, instead of having it go on for over four years. This makes you think about how many other employees may be doing the same thing. I understand that at any time hackers could

break into security systems especially with the rise of IoT devices. This is part of the reason that my own security system does not have connection to the outside world. While I may be a little less forgiving in this manner, millions of others rely on outside companies. Most of the time when people think of hackers, they may think of people halfway around the world trying to access their information. It is astonishing to think about how far off that view could be, where the person violating your privacy is right in front of you. Privacy is a human right that everyone should have. It is because of this I believe what Telesforo Aviles did was unethical and the judgement found against him was granted.

Computer Security Code of Ethics

1. Respect the privacy of others in both professional and personal settings.
2. Honor the trust and confidentiality of clients, employees and others.
3. Comprehend the scope of your interaction between yourself and clients.
4. All computer activities require preauthorization by parties involved.
5. Accept responsibility and be accountable for the actions that you conduct.

References

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