



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

From: Corporal Wendy McGinnis
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

Re: Ex-Employee Obtains a \$46,000 Bond for Hacking Company's Computer

Date: January 25, 2012

Case Number: 2011-35456

Victim:

**Palm Supply Inc. (Pasco County); owners Rachel Liggio & Bob Comella
4627 E. Panorama Street
Holiday, Florida**

Suspect(s):

**Matthew M. Stoddart w/m 07-27-1986
7418 Mohawk Trail
Spring Hill, Florida**

In October 2011, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office received a complaint from the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) reporting that Rachel Liggio and her father, Bob Comella, owners of Palm Supply Inc., had their computer system compromised. Rachel was interviewed by detectives and could only provide one person of interest, Matthew Stoddart, who was employed with them through September 15, 2011. She explained that Matthew Stoddart quit without notice, and they had not heard from him since. She could not provide any reason why Matthew would have any hard feelings toward the business; however, shortly after he quit, their website and emails were compromised. Rachel advised that the website was completely shut down. A large number of emails were deleted that included orders from their customers. She advised that the passwords were changed and related contact information for the account was also changed, rendering them unable to use the email or website. It was also determined that several pornographic emails were sent to the e-mail account of Bob Comella's wife. Mr. Comella's personal Facebook account was also compromised, leaving him unable to access the account.

After a lengthy investigation and subpoenas to both Yahoo and Facebook, a suspicious IP address through Bright House Networks came back to Matthew's residence of 7418 Mohawk

Trail. The suspicious IP address belonging to Matthew was consistent with the dates and times of the compromise.

During an interview with Matthew, he admitted to residing at 7418 Mohawk Trail since at least September 15, 2011 with only his girlfriend, Ginger Theis. Matthew advised that he and Ginger were the only people with access to the computer inside the residence during that time frame. He also indicated that Ginger Thies had no knowledge of anything that went on at Palm Supply and could not possibly be responsible for the compromise. In speaking with Ginger Thies, she indicated that she was not involved and only heard rumors about the incident at Palm Supply.

At the conclusion of this investigation, Matthew Stoddart was charged with one count of hacking for each unauthorized login through both Yahoo and Facebook, as indicated by Bright House Networks. There were a total of 46 logins from September 18, 2011 through October 14, 2011. Matthew was subsequently charged with 46 counts of hacking and received a total bond of \$46,000.

“I hope that this serves as an example to others,” said Sheriff Al Nienhuis “that anger, followed by a crime, will leave no winners. Palm Supply was not only inconvenienced, but they also lost revenue as a result of this compromise. We encourage both businesses and individuals to change their passwords often, especially when relationships change. Changing your passwords will serve as the best defense against these types of crimes.”



Matthew M. Stoddart w/m 07-27-1986