As most readers of this column know by now, I compile reports about information assurance issues into a database called the INFOSEC Year in Review (<http://www.mekabay.com/iyr>) which then fuels courses for my graduate students (and others) and supports articles in various ways. Today I want to point readers to a couple of useful resources that can help enliven corporate security-awareness newsletters and information assurance (IA) courses with what sometimes seem like sketches for “Law & Order” episodes (for an amazingly detailed review of the series see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_&_Order>).

The first site today is the Computer Crime & Intellectual Property Section (CCIPS) of the United States Department of Justice (DoJ) (<http://www.cybercrime.gov/>), which lists several months of recent press releases and a short list of valuable documents. The press releases typically summarize indictments, pleas, convictions and sentences. They often provide details of the crimes and specify the statutes involved in the prosecution (very useful for my Cybercrime and Cyberlaw course (<http://www.mekabay.com/courses/academic/norwich/cj341/index.htm>).

For example, when I visited it in mid-November 2006, I found the following particularly interesting stories among the 19 listed (these are all in PDF):

- Wise, Virginia Man Sentenced in Peer-to-Peer Piracy Crackdown
- California Man Sentenced for Recklessly Damaging a Protected Computer Owned by his Former Employer
- California Man Sentenced for Electronically Stealing Trade Secrets from his Former Employer, a Construction Contractor
- Owner of P.C. Consultants of Wadsworth, Inc. Charged with Computer Intrusion of Merrick Graphics' Computer System
- Developer of "HU Loader" Pleads Guilty in Satellite Television Piracy Case
- Justice Department Announces Guilty Plea in Peer-to-Peer Piracy Crackdown
- For-Profit Software Piracy Website Operator Sentenced to 87 Months in Prison: Defendant Made More Than $5.4 Million in Illegal Revenue
- 'Operation Fastlink' Defendant Sentenced for Online Software Piracy
- Michigan Man Gets 30 Months for Conspiracy to Order Destructive Computer Attacks on Business Competitors
- Operator of Massive For-Profit Software Piracy Website Sentenced to Six Years in Prison: Defendant Made More Than $4.1 Million in Illegal Revenue
- Two Men Plead Guilty To Music Piracy Charges
- Four Men Sentenced And Another Film Critic Pleads Guilty In Operation Copycat: Operation Has Yielded Thirty-Two Convictions, Including the First Convictions in U.S. for Camcording in a Movie Theater and Uploading "Pre-Release" Movies on the Internet

Among the “Hot Documents” were the following particularly interesting titles:
For a complete listing of all the press releases of the CCIPS from 2001 to now in HTML, see <http://www.cybercrime.gov/ccnews.html>.

At the other site <http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/press_room/press_releases/>, you’ll find links for all the DoJ press releases for the Criminal Division from 1996 to 2006. Many of these cases have nothing to do with computer-related crime and some of them naturally repeat the press releases available at the cybercrime Web site discussed above, but others are nonetheless relevant to IA awareness and teaching when they involve the Internet and the Web.

I think readers will find these resources helpful; perhaps you will also share my grim satisfaction in congratulating both the investigators and the prosecutors (remember the preamble to “Law & Order”) in successfully bringing a variety of fraudsters, saboteurs, spammers, pornographers, pedophiles and other creeps to justice.

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