



Department of Justice

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COLUMBUS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING IDENTITIES FROM CUSTOMERS

COLUMBUS — Jason Richard Yuschak, 27, of Columbus pleaded guilty in United States District Court here today to one count of mail fraud affecting a financial institution and two counts of aggravated identity theft for stealing personal identification information of at least 78 customers or potential customers of car dealerships where he worked and using the information to apply for credit cards.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Gerald A. O'Farrell, Assistant Inspector in charge, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and Kurt Douglass, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Secret Service, announced the plea entered today before United States District Judge Gregory L. Frost.

Yuschak worked for four Columbus-area dealerships between September 2005 and September 2007. He stole copies of Ohio driver's licenses, original credit applications, original purchase proposals, original test drive agreements, automobile purchase contracts, and other information and business records containing individuals' personal identification information. Yuschak used this information to set up email accounts, and applied for credit cards using the stolen information.

"Protecting your identification information is as important as protecting other more tangible valuables that you may own," Lockhart said.

Mail fraud affecting a financial institution is punishable by a sentence ranging from probation to 30 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$1 million. Each count of aggravated identity theft is punishable by two years imprisonment, at least one of which must be served consecutive to any time served for the mail fraud.

Lockhart commended the U.S. Secret Service agents, Postal Inspectors, and other members of the Multi-Jurisdictional Counterfeit Check Task Force, who conducted the investigation, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Dale Williams, who is prosecuting the case.

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