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Brett Shannon Johnson (Gollumfun)

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Brett Johnson (Gollumfun). ShadowCrew, collaboration with the US Secret Service and a separate conviction for identity theft and fraud.



The profile was published by Business Insider.

Status: Suspect

Other names: Brett Shannon Johnson; Brett Johnson; Gollumfun

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Status in the case file. WIRED reported on his conviction in 2007 and the sentencing to six years and three months' imprisonment.

About the editorial tag. 'Suspect' is the editorial label used for this series. The procedural status and outcomes of the cases are listed separately.

Relevance to the topic. ShadowCrew, administrator and informant.

From ShadowCrew to Operation Anglerphish

WIRED describes Brett Johnson as one of ShadowCrew's leading administrators. According to the publication, he avoided arrest when the forum was shut down in 2004. In 2005, he was arrested in connection with a separate incident involving forged bank cheques. Following this, the US Secret Service offered him a deal to cooperate and monitor other carding forums. The operation was codenamed Anglerphish. [1] [2]

Working for the investigation whilst simultaneously committing fraud

Johnson helped agents navigate the network of forums and gather information about users. At the same time, according to WIRED, he was committing tax refund fraud. He claimed that he had obtained some of the data whilst working at the Secret Service office. Representatives of the agency told the publication that the unauthorised criminal activities took place outside the office. Both accounts relate to the same period, but differ in their description of exactly where the events took place. [1]

2007 conviction

After agents uncovered the offences, Johnson was re-arrested. He subsequently absconded whilst on bail and was found in Florida. In June 2007, WIRED reported a sentence of six years and three months' imprisonment and restitution of over $300,000. This sentence relates to a specific case and should be distinguished from the total time spent in prison that Johnson referred to in later interviews. [1] [2]

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Public role following his release

Johnson later appeared in the media as a former online fraudster and spoke about protecting against identity theft. His own estimates of turnover and his role in launching ShadowCrew vary across publications from different years. In this profile, his role as an administrator is based on a WIRED investigation, whilst his post-prison activities are described according to his public interview. [1] [2]

This was confirmed by a spokesperson for the Secret Service

In a WIRED investigation, agency representatives acknowledged that Johnson had committed further offences whilst cooperating, but disputed his account of where he had obtained and used the data. Another agent confirmed that Johnson’s information had helped in specific cases. This highlights a distinction between two separate matters. His work provided law enforcement with evidence, whilst the crimes he committed independently during the same period formed the basis for a separate conviction. [1]

If you have any documents or further details regarding this file, Please write to the editor.

Sources

1. WIRED — Brett Johnson, cooperation with the Secret Service and a conviction
   https://www.wired.com/2007/06/secret-service/

2. Business Insider — an interview with Brett Johnson on protecting against identity theft
   https://www.businessinsider.com/former-cybercriminal-shares-how-to-protect-identity-avoid-hacked-online-2025-1

Use of materials

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Original publication

https://kartel-khimprom.com/en/dossier/brett-shannon-johnson-gollumfun/