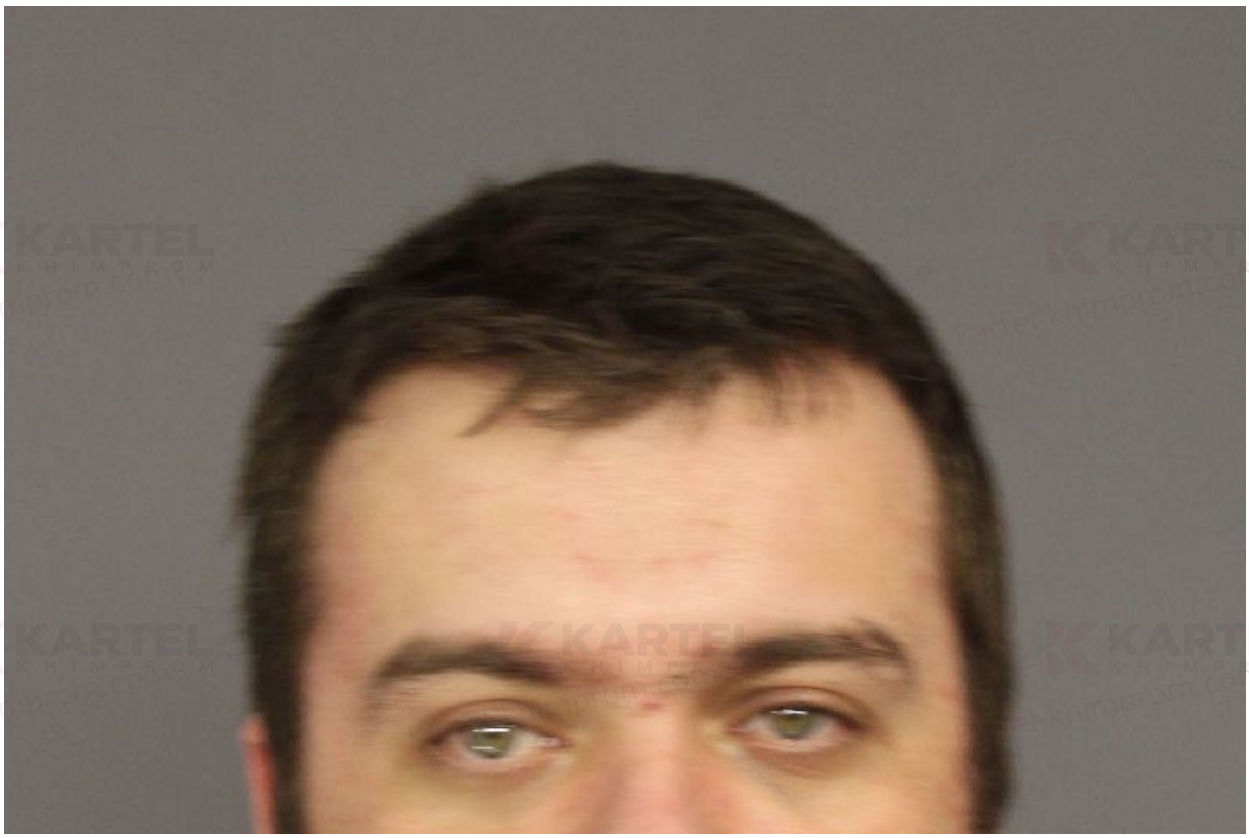
DOSSIER / EN

Alexi Kolarov (APK)

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Alexi Kolarov APK. Role as a seller on ShadowCrew, arrest in Paraguay, extradition, guilty plea and sentencing in New Jersey.



WIRED, photo courtesy of the Essex County Correctional Department, New Jersey.

Status: Suspect

Other names: Aleksi Kolarov; Aleksi Kolarov; APK

Status in the case file. He pleaded guilty in the ShadowCrew case and was sentenced to 30 months’ imprisonment in 2014.

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About the editorial tag. ‘Suspect’ is the editorial label for this series. The procedural status and outcomes of the cases are indicated separately.

Relevance to the topic. ShadowCrew, a seller and a federal sentence.

A Bulgarian seller on an American forum

In a 2004 federal indictment, Alexi Kolarov is listed under the alias APK. The US Department of Justice described him as a seller on ShadowCrew. According to the indictment, he offered illegal goods and services to other members on the forum. On the platform, sellers had access to a wide audience of buyers, whilst the administration managed access and trading rules. Kolarov is listed as a seller in the documents. The prosecution identified other individuals as the site’s administrators. [1] [2]

Paraguay, seven years after Operation Firewall

The US Secret Service and the US Department of Justice unsealed the ShadowCrew indictment in October 2004. Kolarov evaded arrest at that time. Paraguayan police arrested him on 14 June 2011 in Asunción. According to the US Department of Justice, cash in several currencies, counterfeit payment cards and equipment for handling them were found at the time of his arrest. He was held in custody in Paraguay pending his extradition to the US on the grounds of that arrest. [3] [2]

Extradition, guilty plea and sentencing

On 28 June 2013, Kolarov was extradited to the US. In February 2014, in a federal court in New Jersey, he pleaded guilty to the main charge — conspiracy to commit identity theft and fraud involving access to accounts. On 23 October 2014, Judge William Martini sentenced him to 30 months’ imprisonment. Almost ten years had passed since the charges relating to the forum were first brought. [4] [2]

What do the ShadowCrew figures mean?

The Department of Justice reported at least one and a half million stolen card numbers and more than four million dollars in losses to card issuers. These figures relate to the activities of the entire platform, according to the case file. Kolarov’s sentence relates to his role in the conspiracy. In a photograph published by WIRED, Kolarov is identified in the caption with reference to the Essex

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County Correctional Facility. [2] [5]

How the case survived the closure of the marketplace

The shutdown of ShadowCrew deprived its members of a common channel for communication and trade. However, the indictment remained the basis for further investigations into individual suspects. Kolarov was arrested in a different jurisdiction several years later. The Paraguayan case, the extradition proceedings and the federal trial in New Jersey took place at different times. Consequently, in his case file, the date the forum was shut down, the date of his arrest and the date of sentencing are listed separately. [6] [3] [2]

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

Sources

1. Federal indictment of Andrew Mantovani et al. in the ShadowCrew case
   https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/usao-nj/legacy/2013/11/29/Kolarov%2C%20Aleksi%20Indictment.pdf

2. US Department of Justice — 30-month sentence for Alexi Kolarov
   https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/bulgarian-national-sentenced-30-months-prison-role-largest-identity-theft-ring-its-time

3. US Department of Justice — the arrest and extradition of Alexi Kolarov
   https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/bulgarian-national-charged-largest-identity-theft-ring-its-time-extradited-face

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5. WIRED — Kolarov’s extradition and a photo from the Essex County archives
   https://www.wired.com/2013/07/bulgarian-shadowcrew-arrest/

6. US Department of Justice – indictment in the ShadowCrew case, 28 October 2004
   https://www.justice.gov/archive/criminal/cybercrime/press-releases/2004/mantovaniIndict.htm

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Original publication

https://kartel-khimprom.com/en/dossier/alexi-kolarov-apk/