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Saturday November 22, 04:46 AM

Man gets "spam rage" over penis ad

By Adam Tanner

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Call it spam rage: A Silicon Valley computer programmer has been arrested for threatening to torture and kill employees of the company he blames for bombarding his computer with Web ads promising to enlarge his penis.

In one of the



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first prosecutions of its kind in the state that made "road rage" famous, Charles Booher, 44, was arrested on Thursday and released on bail for making repeated threats to staff of a Canadian company between May and July.

Booher threatened to send a "package full of Anthrax spores" to the company, to "disable" an employee with a bullet and torture him with a power drill and ice pick; and to hunt down and castrate the employees unless they removed him from their e-mail list, prosecutors said.

He used return e-mail addresses including Satan@hell.org.

In a telephone



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interview with Reuters on Friday, Booher acknowledged that he had behaved badly but said his computer had been rendered almost unusable for about two months by a barrage of pop-up advertising and e-mail.

"Here's what happened: I go to their Web site and start complaining to them, would you please, please, please stop bothering me," he said. "It just sort of escalated ... and I sort of lost my cool at that point."

The Sunnyvale, California man now faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, with a preliminary hearing scheduled for next month on charges of threatening to injure someone. He said he did not own any

guns or have  
access to  
anthrax.

Booher said the  
problem  
stemmed from  
a program he  
mistakenly  
downloaded  
from the  
Internet that  
brought a  
continuous  
stream of  
advertising to  
his computer.

The object of  
the Californian's  
anger was  
Douglas  
Mackay,  
president of DM  
Contact  
Management,  
which works for  
Albion Medical,  
a firm  
advertising the  
"Only Reliable,  
Medically  
Approved Penis  
Enhancement."

"This went for a  
long, long time.  
He seemed  
really dedicated  
to this," Mackay  
said from  
Victoria, British  
Columbia in  
Canada. "He  
seemed like a  
guy just crazy  
enough with  
nothing to lose  
that might  
actually do

something."

He said his firm does not send spam but blamed a rival firm which he said routes much of their unsolicited bulk e-mail through Russia and eastern Europe. Mackay said such firms gave a bad name to the penis enhancement business.

In other cases, Internet vigilantes have bombarded spammers with both unsolicited e-mail and regular mail and phone calls, launched attacks on spammers' computers and posted spammers' personal information on the Internet, according to reports.

Separately, lawmakers in Washington said the U.S. House of Representatives was poised to vote for on a measure to

outlaw most  
Internet spam.  
Lawmakers  
hope to pass a  
national  
anti-spam bill  
before a much  
tougher  
California state  
law goes into  
effect on  
January 1.



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