Lapsus$ hacker who leaked GTA VI gameplay videos convicted

16 November 2026

Press Release, Fraud and economic crime, London South

A member of an infamous cybercrime group who was responsible for hacking into major companies and leaking 90 clips of Grand Theft Auto VI, has pleaded guilty today.

Arion Kurtaj, 21, formerly of Oxfordshire, admitted being behind a string of high-profile hacks on major companies including Rockstar Games, BT/EE, Revolut and Uber.

He is to be sentenced at Woolwich Crown Court on 23 November 2026.

Robert Hutchinson, Specialist Prosecutor for the Crown Prosecution Service, said:
"Arion Kurtaj used sophisticated hacking techniques to carry out a sustained campaign of cyberattacks, causing serious disruption to major international business and putting sensitive information at risk.

“The defendant was involved in a hacking group responsible for attacks which caused millions of dollars in losses. His offending was calculated and, even after being charged with serious offences, he continued to target organisations, demonstrating a persistent disregard for the harm he was causing and the la

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“This was an exceptionally complex and challenging case, but despite his efforts to conceal his identity online, our specialist prosecutors were able to work closely with the City of London Police and international law enforcement partners to build a strong case that exposed his actions and resulted in his guilty pleas.

“Cybercrime can have devastating consequences for individuals and businesses, putting people’s hard-earned money at risk, and causing economic harm. We will continue to robustly pursue and prosecute those responsible for these offences wherever possible.”

Building the case

Kurtaj was prosecuted by CPS London’s Complex Casework Unit following an investigation by City of London Police and supported by law enforcement partners in the US.

His offending resulted in the theft and public disclosure of highly sensitive and commercially valuable data, disruption to internal systems, deletion of accounts and data, and the compromise of customer and employee information.

Specialist prosecutors from the CPS worked closely with police to build a comprehensive picture of Kurtaj’s offending by focusing on digital evidence which revealed consistent patterns of criminal behaviour.

Despite using multiple online aliases to mask his identity, careful analysis of devices established clear timelines linking the defendant’s real identity, specific locations and dates of offending.

Between August and November 2021, Kurtaj hacked into the servers and data files of BT/EE.

In early November 2021, BT/EE noted a marked increase in unauthorised SIM swaps of their customers mobile phones. This was being caused by unauthorised remote access their programming interfaces – rooted in the initial hack by Kurtaj in August.

SIM swapping allows criminals to trick mobile providers into switching phone numbers to a new SIM card, letting them take control of victims’ calls, texts, and even access bank or social media accounts.

Kurtaj was charged in relation to these offences and, after being moved for his own protection to a hotel in September 2022, breached his bail conditions to carry out

further hacks on major companies using a mobile phone, the hotel TV's Wi-Fi and a firestick.

The defendant accessed the systems of financial technology company Revolut, compromising information belonging to thousands of customers.

In a separate attack on Uber, he exfiltrated sensitive data, deleted data and accounts from internal systems and sent a lewd image to employees. The attack resulted in costs in excess of $2.8 million.

He also hacked into Rockstar Games with the intent to commit blackmail, taking 90 gameplay videos from the highly anticipated Grand Theft Auto VI game, which he subsequently released online under the pseudonym TeaPotUberHacker.

The defendant subsequently threatened to release the game's source code, putting commercially sensitive property at risk.

He also pleaded guilty today to a further offence of possessing a mobile phone in prison in March 2026, in which he sent a mocking message to 999 from the illicit device.

Notes to editors

- Robert Hutchinson is a Specialist Prosecutor for CPS London's Complex Casework Unit.
- Arion Kurtaj [DOB: 19/05/05] pleaded guilty to:
  - 3 x UNAUTHORISED ACT TO IMPAIR THE OPERATION OF A COMPUTER, contrary to section 3(1) of the Computer Misuse Act 1990.
  - 1 x FRAUD, contrary to section 1 of the Fraud Act 2006.
  - 1 x SECURING UNAUTHORISED ACCESS TO COMPUTER MATERIAL WITH INTENT, contrary to section 2(1)(b) of the Computer Misuse Act 1990.
  - 1 x possession of a mobile phone in prison

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