

Lizard Squad

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Lizard Squad

The infamous Lizard Squad is well known for their computer hacking skills. This particular “Squad” targeted gaming console networks and even went to the extent of hacking a personal account. Computer hacking faces some extreme charges that have a severe punishment. The Lizard Squad, in theory, consists of many hackers, but only two young men were unmasked.

A couple years ago the “Squad” had hacked Xbox Live and PlayStation making an outage for gamers. Being Christmas time and with the holiday season comes time off, gamers were more than upset they couldn’t spend their downtime playing their video games. The connection outage was an outrage in the gamer community. The hacking didn’t stop just at Xbox and PlayStation networks but got personal. John Smedley, President of Sony Online Entertainment, had his Twitter and other personal accounts hacked. Lizard Squad tweeted a bomb threat on Smedley’s Twitter account while he was in flight. The tweet caused his plane to make an emergency landing to investigate the seriousness of the tweet. Smedley’s taxes were also filed under the hacking of the “Squad.”

Although the “Squad” in theory consists of multiple people, only two have been caught and found guilty of the events taken place. The first, a 17-year-old male, Julius “zeekill” Kivimaki is identified. After the trial, in Finland where he is from, Kivimaki was linked to 50,700 other charges of computer-related crimes. The second male caught for crimes relating to the online gaming tragedy, Vinnie Omari, also 17-years-old. Omari admitted to specifically targeting female players on the hit game “League of Legends.”

Justice was served, but not to the severity as Smedley would have liked. Kivimaki was sentenced to “two-year suspended sentence, and effectively face no jail time.” Smedley took matters into his own hands for his thoughts to be heard. After explaining to the public how Kivimaki was responsible for his personal attacks and Xbox and PlayStation attacks. Smedley also highlighted the fact Kivimaki was not even charged with the bomb threat tweet that made Smedley’s plane emergency land. He tweeted on his twitter, “I’m 46. I’ve had my identity stolen, tax returns filed, I’ve been swatted and many other things. So yeah, I’m pissed,” and “His parents need to be held accountable for his actions in addition to his going to jail. @what_security - So I’m coming for you, Julius.” Not a very professional action by Smedley but an understandable one.

The lesson to take away from the Lizard Squad event is to probably not hack big computer-based systems. There are so many tracks to cover while hacking other computers; you are bound to get caught one way or another. The infamous Lizard Squad has finally been laid to rest, but who knows when there will be another squad trying to hack another major computer-based system.

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