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**DOMAIN NAME THIEF SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON
Groundbreaking Case Highlights Cybercrime Threat to Businesses and Individuals**

July 22, 2011. Union N.J.— Today computer hacker Daniel Goncalves was sentenced to five years in prison for stealing the domain name P2P.com from **Internet entrepreneurs Marc Ostrofsky and Albert and Lesli Angel** and selling it on eBay.com for \$121,000 to former professional basketball player Mark Madsen (see [full story](#)). Goncalves is the first domain thief to be criminally prosecuted in the United States. The N.J. Cyber Crimes Unit prosecution was led by arresting sergeant detective John Gorman and prosecutor Kenneth Sharpe. Goncalves was sentenced before Superior Court Judge Stuart Peim in Union County, N.J. following a guilty plea to multiple criminal counts

This sentencing sets an important precedent in the fight against domain name theft. Individuals and Fortune 500 companies alike are vulnerable to domain theft and website hijackings, but victims face daunting legal hurdles just pursuing civil remedies. In many states victims of domain theft would face significant challenges simply reclaiming a stolen domain from a subsequent purchaser. As a 2007 Wall Street Journal article confirmed “domain thefts are an everyday occurrence” but criminal enforcement proceedings are rare to non-existent. But in this case Ostrofsky and his partners Albert and Lesli Angel worked to track down Goncalves, get the N.J. Cyber Crimes unit involved and ultimately have the hacker brought to justice.

Ostrofsky, author of the best selling book *Get Rich Click*, is renowned in the Guinness World Records for having bought Business.com for \$150,000 in 1995 and sold it a few years later for a world record \$7.5 million. Transactions like the one involving Business.com helped to make transactions in domain names a hot investment prospect. But laws creating remedies for victims of domain theft have lagged behind market progress. Albert Angel, who spoke at the sentencing, said “in our effort to redress the injuries inflicted on us we came to appreciate how undeveloped this area of the law is, and how victims of domain theft face an unmarked and totally uphill battle to get a remedy. Today’s sentencing helps to define a path for other victims and law enforcers to follow, and reinforces the likelihood that the theft of a domain can and will be prosecuted.”