

John Richardson

President

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To whom this may concern,

My name is John Richardson, President and Owner of Swank Internet Business Solutions LLC in Baltimore, Maryland. I have been asked by Mr. Michael Arnstein of The Natural Sapphire Company Inc. (herein referred to as "NSC") to provide accurate and truthful testimony to the events I witnessed related to the hacking of his company's website orchestrated by Mr. Prashant Telang. Having built a strong rapport with Mr. Arnstein over the past six-plus years, I willfully and gladly accept. What follows is a brief, accurate account based on my memory of events which were witnessed first-hand.

I was first contacted by NSC in early January of 2011, based on a referral by one of the company's contractors. After signing a non-disclosure agreement, I was informed of their situation: They had cut ties with an India-based development company, and soon discovered their website had become inoperable.

After agreeing to terms, I personally traveled to New York to assess the situation in-house from NSC's Manhattan office. My goal was to first identify the source of the problem; resolve the problem; and then offer a long-term solution for the future.

Upon arrival, it was immediately clear that there was a tremendous amount of corruption to both the website, and database. As I was analyzing the code, I could see in real-time that files were being manipulated. New files were being created while others were being edited and/or destroyed. This was the work of an unauthorized intrusion.

After investigating the server's logs, I was able to confirm that the action of the intrusion was occurring from an IP address based in India. This was the same IP address that was associated with Mr. Prashant Telang.

My first step was to block this IP address and completely shut off any outside connection to the website. From there I spent three days repairing the website code and database. I scanned and parsed thousands of files and hundreds of thousands of lines of code,

removing hacks and back-doors, correcting programming errors, and re-creating files and snippets of code that had been maliciously deleted.

After restoring the health of the website, I recommended we place it into a distributed version repository system. This system would allow us to instantly detect any changes to the file system moving forward, and allow a simple, one-click path to recovery.

For the next few weeks everyone monitored the website closely, as every few hours the site would be hacked. The IP address would always change, suggesting the attacker was now hiding behind a firewall, but the hacks all resembled the same strategies and techniques. The breadcrumb trail left behind all pointed to Mr. Prashant Telang.

Whenever a hack would occur, I would stop and disconnect the website, look at the changes that had been made, determine the vulnerability, and provide a patch. This continued for months, with less frequency as more and more patches were applied.

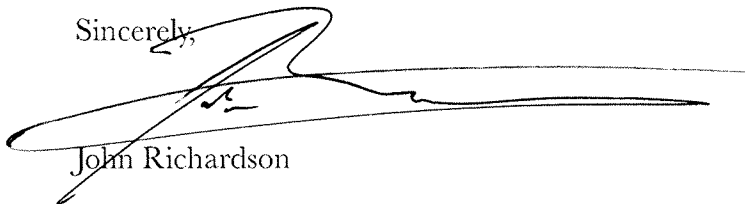
After we were able to secure the website from intrusion, Mr. Telang appeared to quickly shift to a longer-term strategy of attempting to destroy the reputation of The Natural Sapphire Company. He proceeded to hijack a domain that was the rightful property of NSC; create micro sites aimed at damaging search engine rankings; post countless false reviews and accusations on 3rd party websites including (but not limited by) industry related review sites, blogs, and forums; take on the identity of NSC employees using similar email addresses; etc.

While I and Swank Internet Business Solutions *were* actively engaged with developing and executing online marketing strategies with NSC during this time, we were not directly involved with the resolution of Mr. Telang's continued negative online-reputation tactics. As such, I cannot speak much further on anything outside of the physical website hacks without providing conjecture. That being said, there was a definite presence of frustration from all parties involved.

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I attest that this written account is accurate to the best of my memory. I can be reached to confirm this via phone: (443) 362-0400 - or email: john@swankibs.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Richardson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Richardson