



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Media Inquiries: 202-927-8940

Twitter: @SIGTARP

Web: [www.SIGTARP.gov](http://www.SIGTARP.gov)

## FORMER FEDERAL EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO ACCESSING GOVERNMENT WEBSITE SERVERS WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION

WASHINGTON, DC - The Office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP) today announced that Sathish Kumar Chandhun Rajendran, 36, of Sterling, Va., pleaded guilty on Thursday to engaging in unauthorized access to government servers that hosted a Fannie Mae website used to support federal mortgage loan modification programs, including the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP). The plea was entered before U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis, III, in federal court in Alexandria, Va.

Rajendran pleaded guilty to a one-count criminal information charging him with unauthorized access to a protected computer causing damage. Rajendran faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison when he is sentenced on October 3, 2014. In the plea agreement, Rajendran also agreed, for a period of three years following his conviction, to refrain from participating as an employee, contractor, or subcontractor in any government contract requiring clearance.

According to a statement of facts filed with the plea agreement, Rajendran worked at Fannie Mae as an Information Technology term employee and was assigned to the development of the [www.CheckMyNPV.com](http://www.CheckMyNPV.com) website. The website was established under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act by the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Housing and Urban Development in conjunction with the government's Making Home Affordable (MHA) Program. The online tool on the website, operated by Fannie Mae under the auspices of the MHA, allowed citizens to determine the net present value of their homes and check their eligibility to participate in HAMP, a federal program designed to prevent mass foreclosures.

After being terminated from employment in August 2013, Rajendran repeatedly used administrator credentials to log into government servers and make unauthorized changes to the CheckMyNPV website, including disabling the website's online tool for checking HAMP eligibility. As a result of these actions, Rajendran caused damage and loss to the website in the amount of \$30,000 to \$70,000.

This case was investigated by SIGTARP and the Federal Housing Finance Agency Office of Inspector General. Assistant U.S. Attorney Alexander T.H. Nguyen of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia is prosecuting the case.

This prosecution was brought in coordination with President Barack Obama's Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force, which was established to wage an aggressive and coordinated effort to investigate and prosecute financial crimes. SIGTARP is a member of the task force. To learn more about the President's Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force, please visit [www.StopFraud.gov](http://www.StopFraud.gov).

## **About SIGTARP**

The Office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program investigates fraud, waste, and abuse in connection with TARP.

To report suspected illicit activity involving TARP, dial the **SIGTARP Hotline**: 1-877-SIG-2009 (1-877-744-2009).

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