18 U.S. Code § 1030 - Fraud and related activity in connection with computers

* [U.S. Code](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1030#tab_default_1)
* [Notes](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1030#tab_default_2)

[prev](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1029) | [next](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1031)

**(a)**Whoever—

**(1)**

having knowingly accessed a [computer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-599163109-692694671&term_occur=999&term_src=) without authorization or exceeding authorized access, and by means of such conduct having obtained information that has been determined by the United[States](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-80204913-692694673&term_occur=999&term_src=)Government pursuant to an Executive order or statute to require protection against unauthorized disclosure for reasons of national defense or foreign relations, or any restricted data, as defined in paragraph y. of section 11 of the [Atomic Energy Act of 1954](https://www.law.cornell.edu/topn/atomic_energy_act_of_1946), with reason to believe that such information so obtained could be used to the injury of the United[States,](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-80204913-692694673&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030) or to the advantage of any foreign nation willfully communicates, delivers, transmits, or causes to be communicated, delivered, or transmitted, or attempts to communicate, deliver, transmit or cause to be communicated, delivered, or transmitted the same to any[person](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-991716523-1301629&term_occur=999&term_src=)not entitled to receive it, or willfully retains the same and fails to deliver it to the officer or employee of the United[States](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-80204913-692694673&term_occur=999&term_src=)entitled to receive it;

**(2)**intentionally accesses a [computer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-599163109-692694671&term_occur=999&term_src=) without authorization or [exceeds authorized access](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-1178319080-692694676&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030), and thereby obtains—

**(A)**

information contained in a [financial record](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-1561363512-692694675&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030) of a [financial institution](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-1922911-692694674&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030), or of a card issuer as defined in [section 1602(n)](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1602#n) [[1]](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1030" \l "fn002096) of title 15, or contained in a file of a consumer reporting agency on a consumer, as such terms are defined in the [Fair Credit Reporting Act](https://www.law.cornell.edu/topn/fair_credit_reporting_act) ([15 U.S.C. 1681](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/15/1681) et seq.);

**(B)**

information from any department or agency of the United [States](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-80204913-692694673&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030); or

**(C)**

information from any [protected computer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-695191731-692694672&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030);

**(3)**

intentionally, without authorization to access any nonpublic [computer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-599163109-692694671&term_occur=999&term_src=) of a department or agency of the United[States,](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-80204913-692694673&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030) accesses such a [computer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-599163109-692694671&term_occur=999&term_src=) of that department or agency that is exclusively for the use of the Government of the United[States](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-80204913-692694673&term_occur=999&term_src=)or, in the case of a [computer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-599163109-692694671&term_occur=999&term_src=) not exclusively for such use, is used by or for the Government of the United[States](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-80204913-692694673&term_occur=999&term_src=)and such conduct affects that use by or for the Government of the United[States;](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-80204913-692694673&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030)

**(4)**

knowingly and with intent to defraud, accesses a [protected computer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-695191731-692694672&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030) without authorization, or [exceeds authorized access](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-1178319080-692694676&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030), and by means of such conduct furthers the intended fraud and obtains anything of value, unless the object of the fraud and the thing obtained consists only of the use of the[computer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-599163109-692694671&term_occur=999&term_src=)and the value of such use is not more than $5,000 in any 1-year period;

**(5)**

**(A)**

knowingly causes the transmission of a program, information, code, or command, and as a result of such conduct, intentionally causes [damage](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-1339126929-692694678&term_occur=999&term_src=) without authorization, to a [protected computer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-695191731-692694672&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030);

**(B)**

intentionally accesses a [protected computer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-695191731-692694672&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030) without authorization, and as a result of such conduct, recklessly causes[damage;](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-1339126929-692694678&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030) or

**(C)**

intentionally accesses a [protected computer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-695191731-692694672&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030) without authorization, and as a result of such conduct, causes[damage](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-1339126929-692694678&term_occur=999&term_src=)and[loss.](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-3327779-1301630&term_occur=999&term_src=)[[2]](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1030" \l "fn002097)

**(6)**knowingly and with intent to defraud traffics (as defined in [section 1029](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1029)) in any password or similar information through which a[computer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-599163109-692694671&term_occur=999&term_src=)may be accessed without authorization, if—

**(A)**

such trafficking affects interstate or foreign commerce; or

**(B)**

such [computer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-599163109-692694671&term_occur=999&term_src=) is used by or for the Government of the United[States;](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-80204913-692694673&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030) [[3]](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1030" \l "fn002098)

**(7)**with intent to extort from any [person](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-991716523-1301629&term_occur=999&term_src=) any money or other thing of value, transmits in interstate or foreign commerce any communication containing any—

**(A)**

threat to cause [damage](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-1339126929-692694678&term_occur=999&term_src=) to a [protected computer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-695191731-692694672&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030);

**(B)**

threat to obtain information from a [protected computer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-695191731-692694672&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030) without authorization or in excess of authorization or to impair the confidentiality of information obtained from a [protected computer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-695191731-692694672&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030) without authorization or by exceeding authorized access; or

**(C)**

demand or request for money or other thing of value in relation to [damage](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-1339126929-692694678&term_occur=999&term_src=) to a [protected computer](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-695191731-692694672&term_occur=999&term_src=title:18:part:I:chapter:47:section:1030), where such[damage](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=18-USC-1339126929-692694678&term_occur=999&term_src=)was caused to facilitate the extortion;

shall be punished as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

**(b)**

Whoever conspires to commit or attempts to commit an offense under subsection (a) of this section shall be punished as provided in subsection (c) of this section.