

Kevin Mitnick, the great pretender

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Created *14/06/2006 - 5:15pm*

Submitted by srlinuxx on Wednesday 14th of June 2006 05:15:53 PM Filed under [Interviews](#) [1]

Without the current glut of naive Web users to exploit, would-be cyberthieves and vandals had to be somewhat more creative, and one of the most creative and infamous was Kevin Mitnick.

Arrested by the FBI in 1995 and convicted of breaking into the systems of Fujitsu Siemens, Nokia and Sun Microsystems, Mitnick served five years in prison--eight months of it in solitary confinement.

Following his run-in with the law, Mitnick put his powers of persuasion to good, running a company that advises businesses on avoiding social-engineering attacks.

ZDNet UK caught up with the ex-cracker before his keynote speech on the "art of deception" at the MIS CISO Executive Summit & Roundtable in Barcelona, to discuss developments in social engineering, new U.S. laws monitoring telephone systems and alleged "NASA hacker" Gary McKinnon's impending extradition to the United States.

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