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## **South Carolina Man Pleads Guilty To Distributing Illegally Modified DIRECTV Access Cards**

**EL SEGUNDO, Calif., Feb. 22, 2007** – DIRECTV confirmed today that Michael C. Hill, a 53-year-old South Carolina resident, pled guilty in a U.S. District Court in Paducah, Ky., to engaging in a conspiracy to distribute devices designed to gain unauthorized access to DIRECTV programming. The plea was announced yesterday by David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky. Hill could face a maximum of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Two other defendants in the case have already received prison sentences.

Hill, a former DIRECTV dealer who was involved with an international group that was responsible for one of the earliest hacks of the DIRECTV system, admitted during his guilty plea to distributing 437 of the illegal devices to both end-line users and other members of the conspiracy between March 1996 and February 1999.

Hill was charged under a federal statute – 18 USC 1029a(1) – that makes it a crime to manufacture, distribute or use counterfeit electronic access devices, such as credit cards, debit cards, consumer satellite television access cards. In early 2002, DIRECTV began distributing access cards with new technology that has not been compromised.

Incriminating evidence in the case, investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was seized in a search of the business of Canadian businessman William Charles Rath, a principal defendant in the case. Two other defendants, Gregory Chaffin and Jeffrey Sanders, were charged and pled guilty to manufacturing and selling the devices and were sentenced in October 2006 to one year imprisonment.

Rath, a Canadian citizen, fled the jurisdiction of the Canadian courts in July 2006. His current whereabouts are unknown and a warrant for his arrest is outstanding. Hill is scheduled to be sentenced on June 12, 2007 in U.S. District Court.

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## **S.C. Man Pleads Guilty in Piracy Case**

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#### **About DIRECTV, Inc.**

DIRECTV, Inc., the nation's leading satellite television service provider, presents the finest television experience available to more than 16 million customers in the United States, through exclusive content, industry-leading customer service (which has surpassed cable for six years running) and superior technologies. Each day, DIRECTV subscribers enjoy over 250 channels of 100% digital picture and sound; exclusive programming and the most comprehensive collection of sports programming available anywhere including NFL SUNDAY TICKET™, and MLB EXTRA INNINGS™. DIRECTV (NYSE:DTV) also leads the digital television technology revolution with exclusives such as NFL SUNDAY TICKET SuperFan™, US Open Interactive and YES Network Interactive and will soon have the capacity to offer over 150 channels in HD. For the most up-to-date information on the Company, please visit [directv.com](http://directv.com).

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