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# Individual Imprisoned for Attempting to Swindle County Financial Officer

## Email-Based Financial Fraud Operation

According to court documents, in March 2018, Barr and his accomplices researched government-approved contractors and the staff members responsible for vendor payments. Their investigation centered on the Lucas County Auditor's Office, where they collected details about specific contractor employees.

The conspirators subsequently established counterfeit email addresses designed to mimic those belonging to vendor employees, court records show.

This fraud method mirrors a business email compromise scheme, previously reported by *The Daily Muck* on Oct. 21, involving Oludayo Kolawole John Adeagbo, 45, who targeted two universities with fraudulent emails requesting vendor payment information updates.

Similar to Adeagbo's approach, Barr's group employed deceptive emails that closely resembled legitimate business communications, typically differing by just one character (for example, `Andy.Willson@info.com` versus `Andy.Willlson@info.com`). These emails aimed to either redirect payments or distribute malware through embedded links or attachments.

Using these fraudulent communications, the conspirators sent the Lucas County Auditor modified payment instructions for legitimate vendor invoices.

## Fraudulent Business Bank Accounts

Court documents reveal that Barr's group created fake IRS corporate and Pennsylvania state documentation to establish unauthorized business accounts at Bank of America, PNC Bank, and Citizens Bank. They then directed government staff to use these fraudulent banking details for processing legitimate invoice payments, effectively intercepting the funds.

The orchestrated plan involved the Lucas County Auditor conducting business with authorized government vendors, but payments would be redirected using the fraudulent banking information provided by Barr and his associates, according to the indictment.

Government employees, deceived by the authentic-looking emails, followed the fraudulent payment instructions, sending funds to accounts controlled by Barr's group instead of the legitimate vendors who performed the services. To obscure their activities, the conspirators quickly transferred the stolen funds across multiple accounts after receiving government payments, making fund recovery challenging once the fraud was detected.

According to judgment documents, Barr admitted guilt to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and received a 57-month prison sentence. His punishment includes three years of supervised release and mandatory restitution of \$622,793.62.

# Someone Got Busted Trying To Trick A County Money Person

## Sneaky Email Money Scams

Court papers reveal that in March 2018, Barr and his crew looked into contractors with government seals of approval and the folks in charge of paying them. They focused on the Lucas County Auditor's Office gathering info on the people who worked for the contractors.

Then, the schemers set up fake email accounts that looked like they were from the contractor workers, as the court filings indicate.

This scam style is pretty much the same as a sneaky business email trick "The Daily Muck" talked about on Oct. 21. That time, it was Oludayo Kolawole John Adeagbo, a 45-year-old guy fooling two colleges with fake emails to change how they send vendor cash.

Barr's crew took pages from Adeagbo's playbook chucking out fake emails that were dead ringers for the real deal. I mean, they were almost identical, with just one letter off, like `Andy.Willson@info.com` against `Andy.Willlson@info.com`. These crafty messages were all about either getting the cash to flow their way or slipping nasty software into people's computers with sneaky links or files hanging out in those emails.

The gang pulled a fast one on the Lucas County Auditor hitting them with changed bank details to pay for stuff that was legit.

## **Dodgy Business Cash Accounts**

Legal papers show Barr's team made up IRS and Pennsylvania state papers to set up accounts they shouldn't have at Bank of America, PNC Bank, and Citizens Bank. They got government employees to process real bill payments with these phony bank details hijacking the cash.

Their scheme had the Lucas County Auditor doing deals with official government suppliers. But instead of going to the right place, payments got shifted because of the bogus banking info Barr's gang handed over, the indictment says.

Workers at the government tricked by emails that seemed super legit, did what the scammy payment directions said. They ended up chucking cash into accounts that Barr and his buddies controlled, not to the real peeps who did the work. To cover their tracks, these scammers zipped the swiped money through a bunch of accounts pretty fast after they got the dough from the government. It was super hard to get the money back when everyone figured out it was a scam.

Barr owned up to being in on the conspiracy to pull off wire fraud, per the court papers. The judge gave him a sentence of 57 months behind bars. Plus when he gets out, he's got to be watched for three years and pay back \$622,793.62, 'cause that's fair.

## **Person Locked Up for Trying to Cheat County Money Manager**

### **Scheme to Steal Through Emails**

Court papers reveal that in March 2018, Barr and his team looked into government-okay contractors and the people who handle their payments. They zeroed in on the Lucas County Auditor's Office gathering info on certain folks who work for contractors.

Next, these schemers set up fake email accounts that looked just like the real ones used by folks who worked for the vendors, the court documents say.

The scam technique is quite like one that "The Daily Muck" detailed in a story on October 21. It covered Oludayo Kolawole John Adeagbo, a 45-year-old guy who tricked two colleges with fake emails. He wanted to change the details for vendor payments.

Barr and his crew used the same kind of trick. They sent out dodgy emails that looked almost like the real deal, with just one letter off – think `Andy.Willson@info.com` turning into `Andy.Willlson@info.com`. The point was to either mess up where the money went or to slip in nasty software through links or files they tacked on.

With these sneaky messages, they fed the Lucas County Auditor some changed-up payment instructions meant for real vendor bills.

### **Fake Business Bank Accounts**

Court records show Barr and his team made up fake IRS and Pennsylvania state papers building fake business accounts at Bank of America, PNC Bank, and Citizens Bank. They fooled government employees into using these made-up bank details to handle real invoice payments snatching the cash for themselves.

Their scheme played out with the Lucas County Auditor doing deals with legit government sellers, but Barr's crew tricked them into sending payments to the wrong bank accounts they set up, the charges against them say.

The crew got the government workers tricked with emails that looked super real. The workers went ahead with the fake payment steps throwing the cash into the scammers' accounts, not the real deal vendors who did the job. To keep their sneaky moves undercover, the fraudsters moved that stolen dough between a bunch of different accounts quick as lightning, once they got the government money. This made getting the money back super tough after peeps caught on to the scam.

The court papers say Barr owned up to being part of the plan to trick people through the internet and ended up with a 57-month stay in the slammer. He's got to chill under watch for three years after that and pay back a hefty \$622,793.62 because that's what he owes.