

Legal Status and Extradition

John *Erin* Binns (born 1999 or 2000) is a U.S. citizen indicted on federal charges for a 2021 breach of T-Mobile's systems (stealing tens of millions of customer records) and a 2023–24 extortion of victims from cloud-provider Snowflake data (implicating about 165 organizations). U.S. prosecutors secured a sealed indictment in 2022 on multiple counts (wire fraud, computer fraud, identity theft, etc.) related to the T-Mobile breach ¹. In May 2024 Turkish authorities arrested Binns (then age 24) on a U.S. extradition request ² ³. At that time, Binns was living in Turkey (having moved there in 2018) and did not hold Turkish citizenship ¹. U.S. officials obtained a Turkish court order approving his extradition by late 2024, but in early 2025 Binns was reportedly granted Turkish citizenship – a change that under Turkish law would bar extradition ⁴. As of late 2025, Binns remains detained in a Turkish prison and has *not* been extradited to the U.S. ⁵ ¹. The U.S. Department of Justice confirms he “is not presently in U.S. custody,” and lists his aliases (see below) ⁶. The U.S. continues to seek his extradition to face charges; in January 2024 a U.S. court unsealed Binns’s T-Mobile indictment to hand it to Turkish authorities ¹. (By contrast, his Canadian co-defendant Connor Moucka was arrested in Canada in late 2024 and has since been extradited and detained in the U.S. for trial.)

Online Platforms and Aliases

Binns is linked to several cyber-criminal pseudonyms and platforms. He ran a website **intelsecrets.su** (and associated Telegram channels) used to publish hacked data and inflammatory claims. Security analysts report that Binns and associates created *intelsecrets.su* in 2021 to harass U.S. officials and advertise stolen data ⁷. Binns himself has used dozens of online aliases. His best-known handles are **IRDev** (often styled *irdev* or *irdev007*) and **IntelSecrets** ⁷ ⁸. He also went by variants like “*j_irdev1337*” ⁹ ¹⁰. Other personas tied to him include “*V0rtex*” (or *v0rtex*) ⁷ and (as some analysts note) even “*Und0xxed*” ⁷. The DOJ press release confirming the 2024 indictment explicitly lists his aliases as “**irdev**” and “**j_irdev1337**” ¹⁰. (For example, TechCrunch and other sources identify *IRDev* and *j_irdev1337* as Binns’s handles ⁹ ¹⁰.)

Accusations Against U.S. Government and CIA

Binns has publicly and in court documents accused U.S. intelligence agencies of grave misconduct. He **claims** the CIA and U.S. military tortured or tried to kill him, implanted devices, and surveilled him. For example, in a 2020 lawsuit he alleged the CIA **falsely informed Turkish intelligence that he was an ISIS supporter**, leading to his kidnapping and torture in Turkey ¹¹. He also alleged the FBI was illegally surveilling him and “the CIA had shot *psychotronic lasers*” into his home, even using a microwave oven as a weapon ¹² ¹³. On his *intelsecrets.su* site and Telegram channels, Binns **claimed** he fled to Europe to escape U.S. prosecution only to be captured and tortured with new “electronic weapons” ¹⁴. He has repeated these themes in interviews: e.g. stating that he hacked T-Mobile “to retaliate” against U.S. agencies for purportedly torturing him in 2019 ¹⁴ ¹⁵. He has also sued the CIA, FBI and other agencies demanding “restitution” for this alleged abuse ¹⁴ ¹⁶.

These allegations appear only in Binns’s own statements or court filings. No independent evidence supports them. In fact, courts have dismissed his lawsuits. As one district court noted, Binns claimed the CIA “falsely communicated … that Plaintiff was … ISIS” and urged Turkey to target him ¹¹, but the

court dismissed the suit on jurisdictional grounds. U.S. reporting (e.g. Wired and KrebsOnSecurity) treats his CIA/torture claims as sensational and unsubstantiated ¹² ¹⁷. In one interview noted by Wired, Binns even **requested** that a judge believe he had a brain chip implanted at birth that controlled his behavior ¹⁸.

Mental Health and Credibility

Mainstream coverage portrays Binns's narratives as delusional. Wired and KrebsOnSecurity describe his beliefs as paranoid "conspiracies" ¹² ¹⁷. For instance, Wired reports Binns filed a FOIA lawsuit claiming CIA "spied on him, experimented on him" and used weapons on his head, but later moved to dismiss that suit "after experiencing a psychological episode" ¹². Wired also obtained a letter Binns sent to a judge stating he believed an implanted "wireless brain stimulation device" was causing his impulses and crimes ¹⁸. KrebsOnSecurity likewise notes that investigators believe Binns's "erratic behavior and online communications" were driven by paranoia about being watched, and that this very fear likely drew law enforcement attention ¹⁹. Other reporting labels his claims "wild" and "bizarre" ¹² ¹⁴. Even in forums, readers characterize his site as "stereotypical schizophrenic hallucinations." In short, no evidence corroborates his extreme claims, and analysts treat them as products of mental instability rather than fact.

"CIA Tipoff" Theories

We found no credible reporting of any *outside* theory that a rogue CIA tip led to Binns's 2024 arrest. The only related allegations are Binns's own claims (e.g. that the CIA falsely labeled him an ISIS terrorist back in 2019, as above ¹¹). Journalistic sources (Wired, Krebs, Fortune, etc.) do not mention any CIA role in his 2024 detention except in quoting Binns's accusations ²⁰ ¹². In particular, neither DOJ filings nor investigative reports suggest the CIA orchestrated his arrest. No independent "tipoff" appears in official or news accounts. Thus, aside from Binns's unverified statements about earlier events, we found **no evidence** supporting a CIA plot or misinformation campaign involving his 2024 arrest.

Summary

- **Charges & Custody:** Binns is charged in U.S. courts for a 2021 T-Mobile hack (indicted 2022) and a 2023-24 Snowflake data theft/extortion (indictment unsealed Oct 2024). He was arrested in Turkey in May 2024 on the T-Mobile charges. He remains in Turkish custody (pending extradition) but was reportedly granted Turkish citizenship in 2025, which may block extradition ⁴. As of late 2025 he is *not* in U.S. custody ⁵.
- **Online Aliases/Platform:** Binns ran the site *intelsecrets.su* and used many hacker handles. The U.S. DOJ and press identify him as "IRDev" or "irdev" (and "j_irdev1337"), as well as "IntelSecrets" ¹⁰ ⁸. He has also gone by "V0rtex," "und0xxed," and other aliases ⁷ ¹⁰.
- **Claims vs. Intelligence Agencies:** Binns alleges U.S. agencies tortured or surveilled him – e.g. that the CIA's "psychotronic lasers" nearly killed him ¹² ¹³. These assertions come solely from his own accounts and were dismissed in court. Reporting describes them as baseless and likely delusional ¹² ¹⁷. No investigative evidence supports any of Binns's claims about CIA or FBI misconduct.

- **Mental Health:** Multiple sources note Binns's behavior as erratic and paranoid. He has told courts he believed he had a mind-control implant and that U.S. agents attacked him via electromagnetic weapons ¹⁸. Wired and KrebsOnSecurity characterize these narratives as the product of psychological episodes ¹² ¹⁹. His own filings describe withdrawal from medication and intense distrust of authorities. Overall, analysts regard his conspiracy claims as unsupported and symptomatic of severe mental illness, not as factual allegations.
- **CIA "Tipoff" Theories:** We found no journalistic or official source suggesting a CIA "tipoff" led to Binns's 2024 arrest. All references to CIA involvement come from Binns's earlier claims (e.g. his lawsuit about being labeled ISIS in 2019 ¹¹). Nothing in credible reporting or court records indicates the CIA engineered his Turkish detention.

TXT Summary: John Erin Binns, a U.S. citizen indicted for a massive 2021 T-Mobile hack and later linked to a 2023-24 Snowflake data breach/extortion, was arrested in Turkey in May 2024. He remains jailed in Turkey, contesting extradition, and reportedly obtained Turkish citizenship in 2025 (which would bar extradition) ⁴ ⁵. Binns operated the site *intelsecrets.su* and used aliases like **IRDev/irdev** and **IntelSecrets** ¹⁰ ⁸. He has publicly accused the U.S. government and CIA of kidnapping, torture, and using "psychotronic" mind-control devices on him ¹² ¹¹. These sensational claims have been consistently dismissed by courts and treated as baseless by reporters. No independent evidence supports them, and analysts note Binns's statements as paranoid or delusional ¹² ¹⁷. We found no credible mention of any CIA role in his 2024 arrest beyond Binns's own theories, and no outside source corroborates any "rogue tipoff" to Turkish authorities.

Sources: U.S. legal filings and press releases, major media (Wired, Fortune, KrebsOnSecurity) and cyber-security firms (Resecurity), and court documents ¹¹ ¹ ²¹ ⁶. These provide the verified details above.

¹ ³ ¹² ¹⁸ AT&T Paid a Hacker \$370,000 to Delete Stolen Phone Records | WIRED
<https://www.wired.com/story/atandt-paid-hacker-300000-to-delete-stolen-call-records/>

² ⁴ ⁸ ¹⁶ ¹⁷ ¹⁹ ²⁰ ²¹ Canadian Man Arrested in Snowflake Data Extortions – Krebs on Security
<https://krebsonsecurity.com/2024/11/canadian-man-arrested-in-snowflake-data-extortions/>

⁵ ⁶ ¹⁰ Western District of Washington | United States vs. Connor Riley Moucka and John Erin Binns
<https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdwa/united-states-vs-connor-riley-moucka-and-john-erin-binns>

⁷ Resecurity | Trinity of Chaos: The LAPSUS\$, ShinyHunters, and Scattered Spider Alliance Embarks on Global Cybercrime Spree
<https://www.resecurity.com/blog/article/trinity-of-chaos-the-lapsus-shinyhunters-and-scattered-spider-alliance-embarks-on-global-cybercrime-spree>

⁹ Snowflake hackers identified and charged with stealing 50 billion AT&T records | TechCrunch
<https://techcrunch.com/2024/11/12/snowflake-hackers-identified-and-charged-with-stealing-50-billion-att-records/>

¹¹ Binns v. Cent. Intelligence Agency, Civil Action No. 1:20-cv-01896 (UNA) | Casetext Search + Citator
<https://casetext.com/case/binns-v-cent-intelligence-agency>

¹³ Down Arrow Button Icon
<https://fortune.com/2025/02/28/unlikely-trio-linked-to-hack-of-att-data-attempt-to-sell-it/>

¹⁴ T-Mobile Investigating Claims of Massive Data Breach – Krebs on Security
<https://krebsonsecurity.com/2021/08/t-mobile-investigating-claims-of-massive-data-breach/>

15 T-Mobile huge customer data breach under investigation

<https://izoologic.com/financial-malware/t-mobile-huge-customer-data-breach-under-investigation/>