

The Teenage hacker behind Major Cyberattacks



Introduction:

Arion Kurtaj, a British teenager, became widely known in 2023 for his involvement in some of the **most significant cyberattacks** in recent years. As a member of the **Lapsus\$** hacking group, he participated in attacks on high-profile companies like **Nvidia, Uber, and Rockstar Games**. His case is a striking example of how young people with exceptional tech skills can make harmful choices,



Arion Kurtaj

Age at time of arrest 17

Age Today: 20

Who is Arion Kurtaj?

Arion Kurtaj, a 17-year-old from the UK, rose to infamy for his role in a hacking group called **Lapsus\$**. Despite his young age, Kurtaj was heavily involved in major cyberattacks that targeted huge organizations and caused substantial financial and reputational damage.

The Cybercrime operation:

In 2010, Kristina and her team attempted to steal **\$3 million** from U.S. banks and **£6 million** from British banks. The malware they used secretly captured login details from people's computers, allowing the group to access and drain their accounts.

Lapsus\$ is known for launching cyberattacks that steal valuable data, then demand large ransoms in return for not leaking this information publicly. Kurtaj's actions included breaching security systems, leaking

Interesting Fact:

Operated from a Hotel Room

Despite being under police investigation and out on bail, Kurtaj continued his hacking activities while living in a **Travelodge hotel** after his home address was leaked online. From his hotel room, he orchestrated some of his most damaging attacks using his mobile phone, Amazon firestick and the hotels TV.

The Lapsus\$ Cyberattacks:

Kurtaj and the Lapsus\$ group were responsible for hacking:

- **Nvidia**, the tech company, stealing confidential information and threatening to leak it.
- **Uber**, breaching their internal systems and leaking company details.
- **Rockstar Games**, where they leaked footage and details about an unreleased game from the **Grand Theft Auto** series.

These cyberattacks showed just how much damage hackers can cause, even when they are young and inexperienced.

Conclusion:

Arion Kurtaj's case highlights the dangers of using hacking skills for illegal purposes. Although he was young, his actions caused major damage, and the legal consequences were severe. His story teaches students that while having strong tech skills is impressive, it's important to use them **responsibly** and **ethically**. By following the **cyber code of ethics**, young people can build successful careers in cybersecurity and help protect others from online threats.