

LEAKED DETAILS OF MIT INVESTIGATION

The NYT reports details that must come from MIT's investigation—though the spokesperson insists it's a review—of its involvement in Aaron Swartz' arrest and conviction.

There are a few I find of particular interest.

First, MIT claims it learned that Aaron was still downloading JSTOR materials on January 3.

However, on Jan. 3, 2011, according to internal M.I.T. documents obtained by The New York Times, the university was informed that the intruder was back — this time downloading documents very slowly, with a new method of access, so as not to alert the university's security experts.

Court documents say JSTOR informed MIT about this around Christmas.

The NYT references "a security expert" analyzing MIT's network.

Early on Jan. 4, at 8:08 a.m., according to Mr. Halsall's detailed internal timeline of the events, a security expert was able to locate that new method of access precisely — the wiring in a network closet in the basement of Building 16, a nondescript rectangular structure full of classrooms and labs that, like many buildings on campus, is kept unlocked.

This is a detail I've long wondered about: who was the expert and what tools did she or he use?

And then there's the thoroughly unsurprising news that Michael Pickett was with MIT's head cop when they found Aaron on January 6, 2011.

A little after 2 p.m., according to the government, Mr. Swartz was spotted heading down Massachusetts Avenue within a mile of M.I.T. After being questioned by an M.I.T. police officer, he dropped his bike and ran (according to the M.I.T. timeline, he was stopped by an M.I.T. police captain and Mr. Pickett).

Anyone want to bet they were using some fancy surveillance to find Aaron?