

Former Middletown cop pleads guilty to child porn charges

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A former Middletown police officer pleaded guilty to child exploitation charges in federal court in Bridgeport.

Samuel DiProto, 63, pleaded guilty on Tuesday after being charged in March of 2013.

Police said from 2009 through March 2013, DiProto reportedly downloaded child pornography from the internet.

A Connecticut State Police detective discovered DiProto's child pornography after logging into a publicly available internet file sharing network, police said.

The computer was connected to the network with an IP address assigned to DiProto.

His conviction carries a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison, and the maximum penalty is 20 years, followed by a lifetime of supervised release.

DiProto's sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 2, 2014.

DiProto was arrested on May 7 at his residence and charged with possession of child pornography that included sex acts involving a girl as young as 7 years old.

Investigators seized several items including computers, hard drives and thumb drives from DiProto's home in Cromwell, which is located near a daycare center.

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