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**Ananova :**

## 'Evil cancer' paedophile jailed

A judge has accused an internet paedophile of "providing an electronic highway for an evil cancer" when he allowed thousands of sick images to be viewed.

Judge Stephen Waine made his comments as he jailed Richard Jepson for five years for making, possessing and distributing thousands of images of children being abused.

Jepson had claimed he was on a one-man crusade to track down and trap Internet paedophiles because he was disillusioned with the justice system.

Nottingham Crown Court heard how he had converted a home computer into an Internet server - capable of allowing other Internet users to access it and view images stored on it.

Grace Hale, prosecuting, said Jepson had been caught after anti-vice police officers in America had been carrying out an investigation and traced the images to Mansfield in Nottinghamshire.

Mrs Hale said: "The information was passed to British police and when the hard drive of his computer was examined it was found to contain 5,000 images and 600 movies."

She added that forensic testing of the computer also revealed that another 2,000 images had been created and then deleted.

And she said during a 13-day period from July 11 last year 1,278 visits had been made to his server computer by Internet users looking for child pornography.

Jepson pleaded guilty, at an earlier hearing, to six specimen charges of making pornographic images and six specimen charges of possession of indecent photographs.

Sentencing 33-year-old Jepson, of Chaucer Street, Mansfield, Judge Waine said: "You provided an electronic highway for an evil cancer to spread around the world which will help to destroy or maim many a young life."

*Story filed: 15:26 Friday 15th February 2002*

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