

## **Police: Burglar hits homes because of vacation photos on Facebook**

New Berlin police conducted a year-long investigation into the burglaries of two homes near each other and found they had something in common -- a Facebook friend, who wasn't a friend at all.

"This was a very technologically-laden investigation," New Berlin police Capt. Mike Glider said. Police believe 30-year-old Randall Lasater, of Hartford, trolled for people posting vacation photos to their Facebook accounts, and then knowing they were away, targeted their homes. He's accused of working with an accomplice, Conor Brennan, 23, of Greenfield.

While police said Lasater used technology to find victims, it was technology that also tripped him up. When Lasater used a stolen Xbox at a Milwaukee hotel, it sent a notification to the rightful owner, and police were later able to track it to Lasater, who was staying there. He's now charged with burglaries in three counties.

While the pair are now off the streets, police said there are others using the same technique to identify potential victims. "One of the newest things we're asking people to do is to not let people know via social media, Facebook, etc., that they are gone on vacation. That just lets the bad people know also that they are gone and nobody is home at the house," Glider said.

Even if you know who all of your friends are on Facebook, beware of the friends of friends setting, which police said basically opens it up to almost anybody. Or, even better, wait until you're back home to post the photos.

*<http://www.wisn.com/article/police-burglar-hits-homes-because-of-vacation-photos-on-facebook/8076722>*