

# Abramoff Linked to NSA Contracting Scandal

by [leveymg](#)

Tue Jan 24, 2006 at 09:11:56 AM PDT

## Enron-Global Crossing-Qwest common link: Jack Abramoff

Yet another scandal-plagued corporation with close ties to GOP fixer Jack Abramoff is in the news. Telecommunications giant Qwest bid on huge NSA contracts for outsourced IT services to develop secret surveillance capabilities that ended up being used by the Bush Administration for illegal domestic spying.

MORE BELOW . . .

### [leveymg's diary](#) :: ::

A federal judge in Denver yesterday denied former Qwest CEO Joseph Nacchio's plan to use classified government contracting documents in his defense against insider trading charges. Reuters reported:

*"Qwest in 2002 had to restate \$2 billion in revenue for the two preceding years. The fallout from the scandal triggered civil and criminal action against Qwest and its former executives, including Nacchio.*

*Nacchio's attorneys, in another filing unsealed on Monday, said the former executive's knowledge of classified government contracts anticipated by Qwest in 2001 "is one of the key elements to his defense."*

Even before revelations of massive NSA domestic spying, Big Telecoms appear to have engaged in a whole host of dirty dealings and intrigue that involved Abramoff. Qwest was previously implicated in improper transactions with Enron to inflate both companies' bottom

lines. <http://www.democraticunderground.com/...> Global Crossing -- yet another bankrupted market-maker -- was doing shady business with Qwest, a spin-off of Verizon.(1)

Jack Abramoff presents a common link between all these scandal-plagued companies. Abramoff's former law firm, Greenberg Traurig (GT) has operated as a deal-maker and arm of the GOP and the Bush White House at a number of crucial junctures.(2); also, see, <http://www.dailykos.com/...>

Abramoff's close associate, former Tom DeLay Chief of Staff Ed Buckham, was Enron's registered lobbyist.(3)

Here we see Abramoff at the center of yet another web of corporate and government corruption. As we pull back a layer of his incredibly convoluted influence-peddling career, Jack also appears as a player in the emerging NSA domestic spying scandal.

NOTES:

1)Qwest and Verizon Wireless are the same company, according to the company's FCC filing:

<http://www.fcc.gov/...>

Qwest Wireless - Verizon Wireless

[Timeline](#) | [Orders & Public Notices](#) | [Record Documents](#) | [Applications](#) | [Background](#) | [Contacts](#)

Qwest Wireless, LLC and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless Seek Commission Consent for the Assignment of Sixty-two Broadband Personal Communications Services Licenses

2) According to the Center for Public Integrity, Verizon is one of the five biggest lobbying clients for Jack Abramoff's former law firm, Greenberg Traurig:

Lobbying firm information for Greenberg, Traurig, Hoffman, Lipoff, Rosen & Quentel

Lobbying Records

Lobbying by client

Company Name Total %

Forstmann Little & Co. \$220,000 32.35%

Covad Communications Co. \$180,000 26.47%

Viacom Inc. \$120,000 17.65%

Singapore Technologies, Inc \$100,000 14.71%

Verizon Communications Inc. \$60,000 8.82%

Total \$680,000

Source: U.S. Senate Office of Public Records lobbying disclosure records from 1998 to 2004.

3) According to the Washington Post, one of Abramoff's closest associates, former Tom DeLay Chief of Staff Ed Buckham, was registered lobbyist for Enron. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/...>; also, see, SourceWatch for more on Buckham's Alexander Strategy Group, <http://www.sourcewatch.org/...>

*WaPo: "Buckham, a former chief of staff to DeLay, was at the time (of the much-publicized Scotland golf trip paid for by Abramoff) was registered lobbyist for AT&T, Enron Corp., and the Nuclear Energy Institute. DeLay's wife was employed, at the time of the trip, by Buckham's lobbying firm, the Alexander Strategy*

Group, and was receiving a salary from it, according to DeLay's personal financial disclosure statement for that year, on file with the House clerk."

Tags: [Jack Abramoff](#), [NSA](#), [domestic spying scandal](#), [Qwest](#), [Enron](#), [Global Crossing](#) (all tags)

[Permalink](#) | 8 comments

Comments:  Expand  Shrink  Hide  (Always) |  Indented  Flat  (Always)

---

**Good catch and good diary! (none / 1)**

I have no idea why there aren't more comments!

Any further info on the results of the contracts, as to who did get the contracts?

It's a bad itch when you see 'them' trying to use NSA secrecy to cover their 'alleged' insider' trading charge defense.

Keep on this story, as it's part of the whole issue. (It's a busy day, and you've got a lot of recommends!

*Somebody, do something, I got kids I care about, fer crying out loud!*

by **KenBee** on **Tue Jan 24, 2006 at 11:42:08 AM PDT**

---

**Computer Sciences Corp was awarded the contract (none / 0)**

Here's a WaPo article from 2001. Interestingly, Verizon is listed in the final paragraph, below, as part of the CSC-led group of companies. Expect follow-up and updates in this diary on this emerging story.

<http://lists.jammed.com/...>

Washington Post  
August 1, 2001  
Pg. E1

By Vernon Loeb and Greg Schneider, Washington Post Staff Writers

The National Security Agency yesterday awarded a 10-year contract worth more than \$2 billion to Computer Sciences Corp. and more than a dozen partners in what NSA officials called the largest effort by a U.S. intelligence agency to entrust its information technology systems to a private contractor.

With the Bush administration engaged in a comprehensive review of the nation's intelligence capabilities, the award represents a clear acknowledgment by NSA officials that the agency has fallen behind the technological curve and now needs the private sector to modernize its Cold War infrastructure.

The contract, dubbed Project Groundbreaker, also represents a major departure for the NSA, which has long prided itself on developing much of its own computer and signals intelligence technology.

"Technology is moving much faster today than it ever has and it's very hard to keep up with it. One of the things that makes sense is to bring commercial experience and commercial best practices into the government," said Thomas C. Robinson, president of Computer Sciences' defense group.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael V. Hayden, the NSA's director, said the contract "allows us to refocus assets on the agency's core mission of providing foreign signals intelligence and protecting U.S. national security-related information systems."

One intelligence community official called the contract "unprecedented in terms of the scale of the effort, taking advantage of the private sector's ability to make technical inroads and modernize rapidly. It could very well be replicated by other intelligence agencies, if the effort is successful."

While many of the requirements included in the contract involve non-classified computing and telecommunications services, Computer Sciences and its partners also will be responsible for designing and maintaining classified systems used for the management of electronic signals and digital data intercepted around the globe.

California-based CSC formed a partnership on the contract with Logicon, a Herndon-based unit of Northrop Grumman Corp. The joint venture is known as the Eagle Alliance, and will be led by Robinson.

The team was selected over groups led by AT&T Corp. and OAO Technology Solutions Inc.

Agency officials said the contract, which will become "fully operational" by Nov. 1, includes financial incentives to support the hiring of 750 NSA employees by the contractors at "comparable or better pay, benefits and opportunities."

Computer Sciences officials said the company's experience in moving federal employees to the private sector through outsourcing was a key factor in winning the contract. The company delivered a feasibility study leading up to Project Groundbreaker in which it absorbed about 75 NSA civil servants.

It also undertook a similar outsourcing program for the Army in the past few years, a \$680 million job called the Wholesale Logistics Modernization Program. Under that program, about 200 Army employees became CSC employees, the company said

Now Ricky is singling out women injured by medical malpractice - taking away their rights to help his insurance contributors.

**Get the facts** about Ricky's tricks. Tell Tricky Ricky our health is too important for his games.

[Read More...](#)

---

## NOW STREAMING



As newly elected president, Evo Morales kept his promise to the people to nationalize Bolivia's oil and gas. How did a former coca grower who campaigned in a pair of blue Nike sneakers become the country's first indigenous president? And what's next for Bolivia?

Watch [On the Road with Evo](#).

[Read More...](#)

---

## FIGHT DISCRIMINATION!



This June, the right wing will attempt to write discrimination into the Constitution— **again!**

Senators Frist and Santorum have promised a vote that threatens to

## *Classifieds*

### **Breast Cancer**

Sign up for a free email account that fights breast cancer!

BreastCancerMail.com offers free email accounts that fund the fight against breast cancer! Sign up today.

[Read More...](#)

### **Daily Kos Gear!**

You like the site. The gear isn't half-bad either. Check out the growing selection at the official Daily Kos store.

[Read More...](#)

### **IMPEACH BUSH!**

Magnetic bumper stickers, T-shirts, fridge magnets, caps, bike stickers, mugs. BE NICE TO AMERICA OR WE'LL BRING DEMOCRACY TO YOUR COUNTRY. If you're not outraged, you're not paying attention. COEXIST. Hundreds more. Enter code KOS for 5% off

[Read More...](#)

### **TheActionBlog!**

Save endangered species, stand up for human rights, stop a forest from being clear-cut. You know, all in a days' work. TheActionBlog.com

[Read More...](#)

### **A gift for mom!**

WHY MOMMY IS A DEMOCRAT -- a different kind of children's book.

[Read More...](#)

**Reserve your spot!**



Support Bloggers' Rights!

Candidates

**Netroots Endorsed**

[Combined fundraising page](#)

Jon Tester

Montana

**Francine Busby**  
House  
California 50th CD

**Ned Lamont**  
Senate  
Connecticut

**Eric Massa**  
House  
New York 29th CD

**Joe Sestak**  
House  
Pennsylvania 7th CD



**Daily Kos homepage**

© Kos Media, LLC

Site content may be used for any purpose without  
explicit permission unless otherwise specified.

[Privacy Policy](#)

Powered by [Scoop](#).