

EXCLUSIVE NATIONAL NSW CRIME

Police lay charges in battle over alcohol management technology

By [Sally Rawsthorne](#)

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A contractor accused of stealing hundreds of company files and then developing his own rival software has faced court over allegations he subsequently fabricated and tampered with evidence, and attempted to pervert the course of justice.

Peakhurst man Gregory Harris, 58, began working for hospitality software company Generate Group as a contractor in 1996. Ten years later, he left the company and formed his own, Sea-Tech Automation Pty Ltd.



Gregory Harris leaves Bankstown Local Court on Monday. THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

In 2008, Sea-Tech began selling software similar to Generate's Bevlink, which measures the amount of alcohol poured against a licensed venue's takings.

"Bevlink takes the hard work out of profit management in bars by automatically and accurately measuring the flow of all types of drinks, draught beer, spirits, post-mix, Bevlink makes sure every drink is paid for," Generate's website says.

Generate commenced civil proceedings against Sea-Tech and Mr Harris, culminating in a 2018 Federal Court order that Generate be paid \$4.3 million, Sea-Tech refrain from competing with Generate for the next five years and to stop providing the similar software named Flowtech.

"Generate Group welcomes the court's orders and believes that they will have a positive impact on the integrity of the beverage monitoring market in Australia," reads the company's website. It did not respond to a request for comment.

Sea-Tech has since gone into external administration.

The matter was referred to NSW Police's State Crime Command's Cybercrime Squad, which arrested Mr Harris at his home in December last year.

He was charged with undertaking an unauthorised function with intent to commit a serious offence, tampering with evidence, fabricating evidence and two counts of intending to pervert the course of justice.

"Police will allege in court that the man, who was a former contractor of the company, remotely accessed the server and downloaded documents," NSW Police said in a statement on Monday. "It is further alleged the man deleted more than 350 downloaded files after a court order was issued to access his computer."

Court documents seen by the *Herald* claim that Mr Harris used remote-access software named TeamViewer and "gained access and copied data restricted to Generate Group from their computer server" between 2016 and 2018.

Police allege that after the alleged data theft occurred and a subpoena was put in place, he then destroyed the 363 files "knowing it was or may be required as evidence in a judicial proceeding in the Federal Court".

Police will further allege that Mr Harris deleted evidence from a computer that had been subpoenaed and "intentionally fabricate[d] false evidence with intent to mislead a judicial proceeding" by overwriting the TeamViewer log on his computer.

Mr Harris' matter was briefly mentioned in Bankstown Local Court on Monday and adjourned for two weeks. He will appear in the Downing Centre Local Court next month.



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