



# ***Exploding The Phone***

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Bibliographic Cover Sheet

**Title**            **Phone Phreak Bugs FBI**

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**Abstract**       Excerpts from an interview with Captain Crunch describe how he used a blue box to listen to telephone calls.

**Keywords**     phone phreak; FBI; John Draper; Captain Crunch; blue box; auto-verify trunk

**Source**         ProQuest

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## PHONE PHREAK BUGS FBI

John "Captain Crunch" Draper, twice convicted phone phreak (fraud by wire) told PROFESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE REPORTER in an exclusive interview, how he discovered what may well be the ultimate phone tapping method:

*"I knew the phone company utilized an automatic verification system in many areas. This system allowed the operators to go across (listen in) on any line in their area to determine if the line is in use.*

*Some years ago I figured out how to access the auto-verify system with a blue box, by-passing the operator. This allowed me to put my line across the phone lines of anyone in my area. This was possible because the phone company had installed a common verify trunk through a number of local toll centers.*

*I discovered one could access the the auto-verify trunk by dialing a seven digit phone number and then a three digit access code (with a blue box). This would connect me to any phone line I choose for as long as I wanted. The phone company utilized the auto-verify to check for conversation on a line and "check for trouble", a euphemism for listening in on an interesting line.*

*The implications of this trunk were staggering; I listened to the FBI's private lines the local attorney general, the local CIA and even the telephone company security agents. The auto-verify system was in effect during most of 1975, although towards the end it would only connect for a moment on each access. This problem could sometimes be overcome by blowing a quick burst of 2600 (the universal telco signal tone, ed.) down the wire.*

*The auto-verify concept was phased out in late 1975 in most areas of the country."*

The disadvantage to the auto-verify trunk was the necessity of an illegal "blue box" [tone generator] to access. However, it was far simpler to risk illegally boxing a call than to actually attempt to install a physical tap. The auto-verify system was virtually undetectable, worked on any line in the area, and could be accessed in a matter of seconds.

The concept of the phone company installing an automatic tap for any line in their system is a startling one indeed. \*

## Important Notice On Page 2

### LASER BUG HITS INTERNATIONAL MARKET

The long rumored LASER bug is now offered on the international marketplace. The device is a true passive surveillance bug, i.e., no actual contact with the area under surveillance is required.

The LASER device, designated the PK 1035, is manufactured by PK Electronics of Hamburg, Germany. It uses a pulse width modulated LASER beam of infrared light. The unit appears much like the two-way LASER communicators that have been available for some time. The transmitter/receiver unit is mounted on a tripod and contains the optics for correct beam alignment. It operates from a built-in 12 volt power supply and a range of 800 meters is claimed by the manufacturer.

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