# Brothers Charged with $25 Million Cryptocurrency Theft Using Specialized Skills



Federal prosecutors in Manhattan have charged brothers Anton Peraire-Bueno, 24, of Boston, and James Peraire-Bueno, 28, of New York, with wire fraud for allegedly stealing approximately $25 million in cryptocurrency. According to an unsealed indictment, the brothers used their specialized skills in mathematics, computer science, and cryptocurrency trading to exploit the integrity of the ethereum blockchain network.

The scheme, described as a "first-of-its-kind" by Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco, involved manipulating the validation process of pending ethereum transactions in April 2023. The brothers' academic backgrounds were highlighted in the indictment; both attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Anton graduated with a degree in Computer Science and Engineering in February 2024, while James earned degrees in Mathematics, Computer Science, Aerospace Engineering, and a master's in Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Prosecutors detailed that the brothers executed the theft in just 12 seconds after months of planning and conducting test transactions. They then took steps to conceal their identities, including setting up shell companies and using private and foreign cryptocurrency exchanges.

Despite requests from one victim and representatives from ethereum to return the stolen funds, the brothers allegedly pursued actions to further obfuscate the money's origin. They were arrested on Tuesday and face charges including conspiracy to commit wire fraud and money laundering, each carrying a potential maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.