

Man charged with child porn

Special software used to find images suspect thought erased

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WATERBURY — A Meriden Road man is facing a felony charge after police say they found more than 50 images of child pornography on a computer seized from his home.

As part of an ongoing investigation of people who download child porn, police say they charged 23-year-old Michael Brooks with first-degree possession of child pornography Thursday after his family's home was searched.

Brooks, of 591 Meriden Road, told police that he used a computer program, which is com-

monly used by people to swap music and video files, to view child pornography. When a person is using the program and is connected to the Internet, it can open their computer files to other users around the world.

Detective Peter Morgan, a police computer crimes investigator, launched an investigation last month after a computer in Brooks's home was suspected of containing child porn, including a video of a prepubescent girl sitting on the lap of a man while engaging



Brooks

in sex acts.

Brooks later told police he had used his 20-year-old girlfriend's laptop computer to view the porn, but had erased the images and videos he downloaded afterwards. But Morgan reported that specialized computer soft-

ware was used on the drive, which revealed that it contained child porn.

Brooks told police he started looking at child porn when he was about 13 years old, saying a friend showed him that it could be found online. He had an

addiction to porn, he told police, and watched a variety of it.

"I just like looking at other peoples' fetishes, not that I'm into it myself," he told an investigator, according to police documents.

He also disclosed to police that his girlfriend didn't know he was downloading the images.

Brooks was released Friday from Waterbury Superior Court after posting a \$15,000 bond. He's now under court order to report to MCCA, a program that treats mental health problems and drug addiction. Brooks doesn't have a criminal record. He's due back in court next month.