ID Theft Investigation

Randy Lawrence
ID Theft

The fastest growing crime in the United States
Definition of ID Theft

• ID Theft occurs when any person willfully obtains the personal identifying information (SSN, credit card info, DL, passwords, logons) of another and uses it for any illegal purpose.

• Usually used to obtain money, goods or services.
What do they do?

• Buy things with your credit card
• Get a new credit card
• Open accounts
• Tax refund
• Medical care
• False ID upon arrest
How they do it?

- Steal info from mail/trash
- Trick you into revealing - Phishing
- Steal wallet or purse
- Inside jobs
- Credit card skimming
- Data Breaches
Why ID Theft?

- Old fashioned way - Burglarize
  - Is someone home? Fight back? Identify?
  - Alarm system? Police response?
  - Stolen property must be turned into money. Pawn shops?
Today’s criminal

- High profit - low risk crime
- Never leave your home
- No victim contact
- ID is hard and time consuming
Technology

- Check creation software
- Credit card magnetic strip program
- Driver’s License manufacturing programs
- Phishing
- Hacking
Technology

- Order goods without leaving your house
- Deliver to vacant house or apartment
- E-bay, Craigslist, etc.
- Yahoo or hotmail accounts...who is it?
Let’s Investigate

- Delay in victim learning and reporting
- Number of ID theft cases reported
- Jurisdiction?
- Communication and cooperation
Investigation Challenges

- Reports must be taken where victim lives
- BUT.....where are the suspects
- Cross jurisdictional (intrastate, interstate, international)
- Complex
- Training - (SEARCH, DOJ, NC3W, Associations)
- Resources vs number of crimes
Complex Investigations

- Identifying the suspect
  - Step 1: Search warrant for email address (yahoo, hotmail, etc.)
  - Step 2: Search warrant for IP address (ISP at the date and time (zone) of crime)
  - Step 3: Search warrant for residence of suspect
Proactive Investigation

- Target individuals on probation for ID Theft
- 4th waiver status?
- Up to 50% are continuing their ways
- Narcotics driven
Protect Yourself

• Home

  • Keep records in safe place

  • Shred

  • Mail out of postal box - not box at home with “steal me” flag

• Car
Protect Yourself (con’t)

• Shopping
  • Watch wallet and purse - be aware
  • Never give out PIN
• Online
  • Passwords - change and hard to guess
  • Don’t respond to emails requesting personal info
• Secure websites
Precautions

- Sometimes, no matter how careful, you can become a victim

- Check credit report, checkbook, etc.

- Always be alert and aware of your finances
Questions?

Thank you,
Randy Lawrence