

# ID Theft Investigation

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# 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,  
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