Self Defense for ID Theft Crimes

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1. The Risk Picture
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Who are the victims?

Identity Theft Complaints by Victim Age: 2005

Source: US FTC
Who are the criminals?

Findings from US Dept of Justice

Prosecution of “ShadowCrew”:

- Highly organized – 4,000+ members
- Global: US, Canada, Brazil, Sweden, Poland
- US Treasury Estimate: $1.6 Billion Illegal Business
Offline Dangers

- 30% Lost wallet, checkbook or credit card
- 15% Victimized by known relationship
- 15% Fellow employees
- 8% Stolen or misdirected mail

Total Risk = 68% “Offline”

Source: Council of Better Business Bureaus, Javelin Strategy & Research
What You Can Do Offline

**Behavior**
- Control purse/wallet
- Check statements
- Don’t give info over phone or without question

**Tools**
- Shredder
- Automated payroll
- Use opt-out choices

**Be Prepared**
- Account details
- Notify Police
- Check credit reports
Who are you dealing with?

- Cyber-world and real world
- Beware of contests and free offers
- File sharing will share everything
Online Safety

Make smart buying decisions:

- Choose computer software and products with high levels of security quality
- No operating systems are “bullet-proof” but security does vary
- Resource: www.secunia.com
Importance of Internet Browsers

- Browser software is a key factor in many viruses, spyware and malicious software.
- Use browser option settings
- Consider high security alternative free browsers:
  - www.mozilla.org/firefox
  - www.opera.com
Don’t leave home without it

For high speed connections on the Internet, a correctly configured firewall is a necessity

Resource: Home PC Firewall Guide
www.firewallguide.com
Do you have uninvited guests?

Even if you are careful in the use of downloads from the Internet, you can easily pick up spyware and adware

- www.safer-networking.org (Spybot)
- www.lavasoftusa.com (Ad-Aware)
- www.webroot.com
If you feel overwhelmed, use a suite product

+ Anti-Virus
+ Anti-Spam
+ Anti-spyware
+ Firewall
+ Parental/Privacy Control
Privacy: Exercise Your Choices

- A Privacy Statement ≠ Not Sharing Info
- Use opt-out choices
- Look for Privacy Seals on Websites

www.TRUSTe.org
www.BBBonline.org
Just paying attention and keeping control of your mobile electronics will make a difference

- Laptops – stolen from valet parking
- Blackberry or Treo – left in taxi cabs
- Cell Phones – left in hotel rooms
Protecting Children

- Fastest growing age group of ID Theft victims
- Stolen IDs can go undetected for years
- A child’s social security number is the key
Protect Your Child’s SSN

- Do not carry child’s SSN in your wallet
- Do not ignore bills, credit cards, traffic tickets mailed to child’s name
- Use parental control software and do not let your children make Internet purchases without your supervision
Trend in exploitation of children:
Lures to children via cell phone text messages, IPODs, Blackberry devices

www.missingkids.com
www.cybertipline.com

Good news:
Hurricane Katrina: 5,192 cases of missing children all resolved
The time and effort you invest will pay off!

- Seeking a change in employment
- Applying for a mortgage or car loan
- Lost time from work and stress!