

Cyber Fraud Tip Sheet

Recognizing the Risk

Approximately 82 per cent of all the frauds on the Internet are solicited through web sites, approximately 12 per cent through e-mail and four per cent through newsgroup postings.¹

Statistics

The following statistics² provide you with a glimpse of what type of websites involve fraud:

- Online auctions: 78 per cent
- General merchandise sales: 10 per cent
- Internet access services: 3 per cent
- Work at home business offers: 3 per cent
- Advance fee loans: 2 per cent
- Computer equipment/software sales: 1 per cent
- Nigerian money offers via the Internet: 1 per cent
- Information adult services: 1 per cent
- Credit card offers: 0.5 per cent
- Travel/vacations: 0.5 per cent

Is the ad an unsolicited contact?

Beware of unsolicited e-mail. If you did not ask for the message, it is probably part of a massive re-mailing program in attempt to find someone who will be part of the scheme.

Does it advertise "Get Rich Quick"?

Even with the "excitement" of the Internet and with all the "glorious opportunities", there is still no get rich quick scheme to be had. Beware of all the promises.

Does it ask for personal banking or credit card information?

Be aware of who has access to your credit card number. The danger is not in the card number being "intercepted" but that you are providing the number to the perpetrator.

Some of the main issues with investigating Internet crime or scams are:

1. The Internet is not sensitive to geographic boundaries. Offences can occur from half way around the world. This makes it difficult to investigate the crime, secure witnesses and ultimately prosecute the culprits.
2. The Internet is "faceless". Investigators can determine which website or computer was used to perpetrate the crime, but identifying the criminal behind the keyboard is very difficult.
3. Scams can be hosted or perpetrated from one country one day and another the next. The Internet is the movement of "data". This data can be held on any computer anywhere in the world and changed the next day.

Always remember, if it seems too good to be true... it probably is.

For more information

Local RCMP and municipal police agencies: refer to your local telephone directory.

Alberta Seniors and Community Supports
Alberta Seniors Information Line
Toll-free in Alberta: 1-800-642-3853
Edmonton: 780-427-7876
Web: www.seniors.gov.ab.ca

¹ RCMP "K" Division. Edmonton, Alberta. October 2001

² Statistics provided by RCMP "K" Division. Edmonton, Alberta. October 2001