

ARE YOU THE NEXT TARGET OF A SCAM?

One of the best ways to protect against Internet-facilitated cons is to stay informed. Having awareness of the latest deceptive ploys will allow you to recognize and report them instead of losing money or having your identity stolen.

Here are some of the most common scams you should know about:

GONE PHISHING: Perpetrators send out legitimate-looking emails in an attempt to swindle sensitive information from recipients who take the bait. Recent phishing email messages appear to have been sent by official entities such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

PSEUDO YOU: Fraudsters take over your email account and then use it to send emails to your contacts. These impostors often claim that they are stranded in a foreign country and desperately need financial assistance to see them through a crisis.

FALSE OVERPAYMENT: Scammers negotiate contracts of several varieties, including secret shopper, pet schemes and by posing as potential roommates, which require them to pay you. They send you more money than the agreed amount, and then instruct you to deposit the money and wire the excess amount back to them or some third party.

2008 saw a 33% increase in reported Internet facilitated scams, resulting in more than \$264 million in losses with a median dollar loss of \$931 per complaint.

Source: Bureau of Justice Assistance



Check these sites often to keep up with the latest Internet scams:



Internet Crime
Complaint Center:
www.iC3.gov/default.aspx



Federal Bureau of
Investigation
www.FBI.gov



Federal Trade
Commission
www.FTC.gov

Oh, by the way® ... I'm never too busy for your referrals.