

Steven Diven

Computer Literacy final

Section 301

## Identity Theft



Identity theft is a rapid growing thing in the United States. I chose this topic because I find it to be very interesting to learn more about to better protect myself in any future endeavors that I may have to do in my life. I will always want to be to protect myself and my family if I have one someday. I would like to be able to provide for them and not have everything stolen from us due to identity theft.

Identity theft can occur anywhere and anytime of the day. Identity theft is a crime where a criminal assumes someone else's identity in order to profit by fraudulent means. Someone can easily steal that person's identity to gain useful information to get money directly from a bank account. They could also sign up using your name to receive goods and services. Most people will have no clue that their identity has been stolen until they have received a bill in the mail for

something they never bought or if their bank account has started to dwindle down to nothing in it. <http://www.id-theft-info.com/> (not an article in moodle)

A man by the name of Geoff Bilau had his identity stolen which resulted in credit problems for him that lasted a long time. After the man got his identity finally back on track he was successful in life. Today most companies are offering services to protect citizens from identity theft. This service is called LifeLock; the system alerts you when they detect personal information in credit and non-credit applications that are received within their network. LifeLock can help you in various ways such as it monitoring your personal information to make sure nothing happens to it. It can reduce the risk of mail theft, and it can quickly cancel and replace contents if you lost or someone stole your wallet. [http://daol.aol.com/articles/true-tale-of-identity-theft?icid=maing|aim|dl9|sec1\\_ink1|50214](http://daol.aol.com/articles/true-tale-of-identity-theft?icid=maing|aim|dl9|sec1_ink1|50214)

Many people enjoy shopping online as well. The internet is also an extremely open place for people to get their identity's stolen, if they are not safe at what they do while online. Simple precautions to take when shopping online are to be knowledgeable about what you're buying or viewing. Double check prices of everything and be suspicious to make sure the price your paying is the right price and you're not overpaying. You should also review the return fund, and the shipping & handling policies. Many people just go on to unsecure websites and start typing their credit card information onto the screen and that's when problems start to occur. You should also print out your receipt forms off of the computer to refer to incase you never receive your bought item. [http://daol.aol.com/articles/online-spending?icid=maing|aim|dl9|sec1\\_ink1|50483](http://daol.aol.com/articles/online-spending?icid=maing|aim|dl9|sec1_ink1|50483)

An identity thief can steal more than just money! With your identity thief's can obtain a driver's license from you to be able to buy cars or purchase a house and run up bills and make you pay for it. They can obtain employment and benefits from you; if they get your social security number they can disability, and Medicare. Something else that would irritate a person if their identity was stolen is the fact that the person could commit a crime in your name. For example if the thief gets pulled over by a police officer they could use your personal information and the ticket would get sent to you, and if you didn't pay it you would have a warrant.

[http://daol.aol.com/articles/identity-thieves?icid=maing|aim|dl9|sec1\\_Ink1|44723](http://daol.aol.com/articles/identity-thieves?icid=maing|aim|dl9|sec1_Ink1|44723)

The article's I chose were very interesting to read about, and be able to hear people's own personal stories of identity theft. What they were able to do to regain their identity is amazing. The topic is incredible and something that everybody should be informed on in their life.

One question that came to mind when I was typing this paper about identity theft was how do the people who are stealing your identity even begin to start to get information from you to steal everything from you?

The link below is a CBS news article from Katie Couric. She describes the effects of identity theft and how it is growing rapidly. But today more people are noticing it quickly and are trying to fight back to regain what is theirs.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LR1OUFmGq0E&feature=fvst>

A few Comedy Strips showing the dangers of identity theft!

# IDENTITY THEFT: THE ORIGINAL



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