

# 5 TOP REPORTED CYBER SCAMS<sup>1</sup> 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT 5 WAYS TO GET HELP

In the 3 minutes it takes to read this infographic...

At least 720 new threats have emerged.<sup>2</sup>

60 new victims of identity theft.<sup>3</sup>

60 people worldwide will have fallen victim to a cybercrime.<sup>4</sup>



## #1 FAKE CHECK SCAMS

With initial contact made in online classifieds or marketplaces, an authentic-looking (but fake) check is sent to a consumer with directions to deposit it in their personal accounts and wire a portion of the proceeds to a third party. The scam artists get cash in hand, but the victim is left owing their bank money.

**REMEMBER:** Anyone asking you to deposit a check and wire the proceeds to someone you don't know is scamming you. Don't fall for it!

**GET HELP:** Report it to [www.Fraud.org](http://www.Fraud.org)



## #2 INTERNET MERCHANDISE SCAMS

These bogus websites appear to sell everything from fake pharmaceuticals to electronics to counterfeit brand-name clothing, but the merchandise you buy never arrives or is completely different than what you ordered.

**REMEMBER:** If it seems too good to be true, it is!

**GET HELP:** Report it to the Better Business Bureau [www.bbb.org/consumer-complaints/file-a-complaint/get-started](http://www.bbb.org/consumer-complaints/file-a-complaint/get-started)



FREE VACATION

## #3 BOGUS PRIZES, SWEEPSTAKES AND "FREE" GIFTS

Lottery winnings, sweepstakes, free vacations and cars are offered... but...you have to pay upfront to cover things like "taxes" or "fees." In reality, there is no prize or winnings. It's all a scam.

**REMEMBER:** If someone wants you to pay in order to collect winnings, it's a scam. Period!

**GET HELP:** Find resources at [www.stopfraud.gov/victims.html](http://www.stopfraud.gov/victims.html)

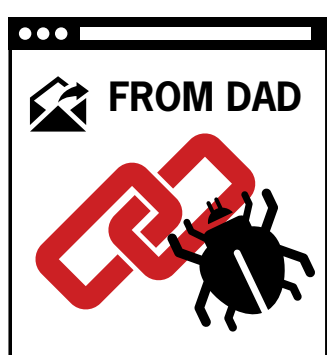
NEED A LOAN?

## #4 ADVANCE FEE LOANS, CREDIT ARRANGERS

Loans or credit are offered in exchange for an upfront fee. If the consumer pays, the loan never materializes, and the consumer loses his/her "fee."

**REMEMBER:** Any reputable lender will want to know your credit history before offering a loan.

**GET HELP:** Find resources at [www.onguardonline.gov](http://www.onguardonline.gov)



## #5 PHISHING/SPOOFING

A phishing email or text messages, allegedly from a business or organization you know or trust, often includes a link or attachment which, when opened, installs malware or directs you to a look-alike website where personal information is requested.

**REMEMBER:** When in doubt, throw it out!

**GET HELP:** Report it to the Anti-Phishing Working Group [reportphishing@antiphishing.org](mailto:reportphishing@antiphishing.org)

## TO PROTECT AGAINST CYBERCRIMES NCSA offers these tips:

- **KEEP A CLEAN MACHINE** by making sure your security software, operating system and web browser are up to date.
- **WHEN IN DOUBT THROW IT OUT.** Don't click on any links or open attachments unless you trust the source.
- **MAKE YOUR PASSWORDS** long and strong and unique. Combine capital and lowercase letters with numbers and symbols to create a more secure password. Use a different password for each account.
- **SET YOUR BROWSER SECURITY HIGH** enough to detect unauthorized downloads.
- **USE A POP-UP BLOCKER** (the links in pop-up ads are notorious sources of malware).
- **BACK UP YOUR DATA REGULARLY** (just in case your computer crashes).
- **PROTECT ALL DEVICES** that connect to the Internet. Along with computers, smart phones, gaming systems, and other web-enabled devices also need protection from malware.
- **MAKE SURE ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY** follow these safety tips (one infected computer on a home network can infect other computers).

Help the authorities fight cybercrime by using the following additional resources:

Internet Crime Complaint Center .....	<a href="http://www.ic3.gov">www.ic3.gov</a>
Electronic Crimes Task Forces and Working Groups .....	<a href="http://www.secretservice.gov/ectf.shtml">www.secretservice.gov/ectf.shtml</a>
Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC) .....	<a href="http://www.idtheftcenter.org">www.idtheftcenter.org</a>
Victims of Fraud Resources .....	<a href="http://www.stopfraud.gov/victims.html">www.stopfraud.gov/victims.html</a>
U.S. Department of Justice .....	<a href="http://www.justice.gov/criminal/cybercrime">www.justice.gov/criminal/cybercrime</a>
National Center for Victims of Crime.....	<a href="http://www.victimsofcrime.org">www.victimsofcrime.org</a>
Fraud.org .....	<a href="http://www.Fraud.org">www.Fraud.org</a>

Visit <http://www.stophinkconnect.org> for more information.



STOP | THINK | CONNECT®

CREATED FOR NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH: EVERY OCTOBER SINCE 2004.

Cosponsored by the Department of Homeland Security and the National Cyber Security Alliance, the nation's leading nonprofit public private partnership promoting the safe and secure use of the Internet.

1 Top 5 Internet-related scams reported to Fraud.org  
2 McAfee  
3 Identity Theft Resource Center  
4 Bureau of Special Technical Measures, Moscow

