

NATI RESOURCES

INTERNET AND TELEMARKETING FRAUD

The National Fraud Information Center received reports of Internet fraud totaling \$14,647,933 during 2002. Ninety percent of the losses occurred at online auction sites. (National Fraud Information Center.)

Twenty-six percent of victims of telemarketing fraud overall in 2002 were age 60 or older and was victim of prizes and sweepstakes fraud at a higher rate of 61 percent. (National Consumer League.)

Telemarketing Fraud Facts:

The National Fraud Information Center states that consumer **telemarketing fraud** loss in 2002 was \$845. The three most common forms of fraud were telephone offers for:

- credit cards (27%);
- work-at-home offers (18%);
- and prizes and sweepstakes (16 %).

Congress estimates that consumers lose \$40+ billion annually to telemarketing fraud. As many as one in ten callers may be fraudulent.

AARP finds that more than half of telemarketing fraud victims were over the age of 50.

How Telemarketing Scams Work

A fraudulent telemarketing operation is usually a "boiler room," where seasoned operators try to scam people.

Cold Calls. Scammers may get your number from a telephone directory, a mailing list or a list of those who have responded to previous telemarketing solicitations.

Direct Mail. You may get mail saying you've won a prize or a contest. The instructions tell you to respond with certain information. If you do, you'll be called by a fraudster.

Broadcast and Print Advertisements. You may place a call in response to an advertisement. The fact that you initiate the call doesn't mean the business is legitimate.

Internet Fraud Facts:

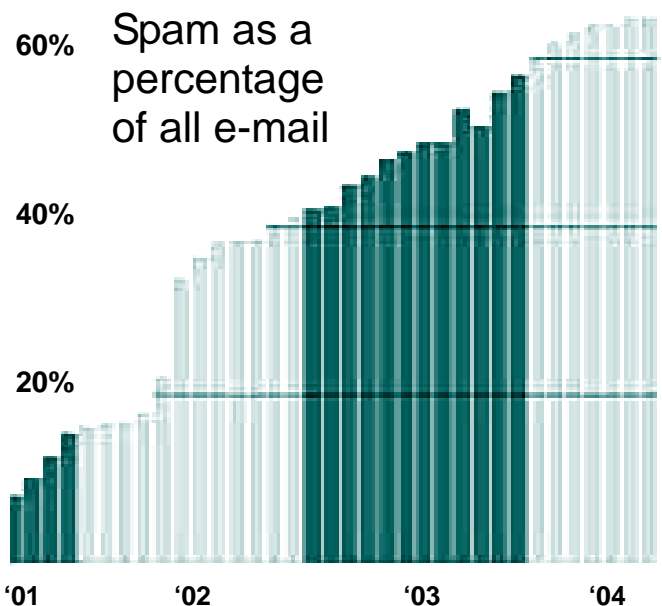
Average **Internet Fraud** Loss: \$803

Top 6 Internet Frauds Jan-Jun 2004

Online Auctions*	28%
General Merchandise	19%
Nigerian Money Offers	9%
Phishing	5%
Information/Adult Services	3%
Lotteries/lottery clubs	2%

Crowded Inbox

The flow of spam continues to rise, even though a federal anti-spam law took effect on January 1, 2004. Source: Symantec



To Combat Telemarketing/Internet Theft:

Don't be pressured to make a quick decision.

Don't give your credit card, account, or Social Security number.

Be cautious of statements that you've won a prize-send no money to claim it.

Don't agree to pay a registration or shipping fee to receive a "prize."

Check out a charity before you give. Ask how much goes to the charity.

Beware of offers to "help" you recover money you may have lost previously.

Check out unsolicited offers with the Better Business Bureau, local consumer protection agency, or state Attorney General's office.

Better Business Bureau

Elder Fraud Hotline

Phone: (804) 780-2222

Internet Fraud Watch

(800) 876-7060

www.fraud.org

Consumer Response Center

[Federal Trade Commission](http://www.federaltrade.commission.gov)

600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20580

(877) FTC-HELP [382-4357]

TDD: (202) 326-2502

www.ftc.gov

Direct Marketing Association (Sweepstakes)

www.the-dma.org

National Fraud Information Center

(800)876-7060

www.fraud.org

Federal Bureau of Investigation

www.fbi.gov

U.S. Department of Justice

www.usdoj.gov

Privacy Rights Clearinghouse

www.privacyrights.org

Identity Theft Prevention and Survival

www.identitytheft.org

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Resources:

EXPERIAN(FORMERLY TRW)

To report fraud, call (888) EXPERIAN or (888) 397-3742, fax to (800) 301-7196, or write to P. O. Box 1017 Allen, TX 75013

To OPT OUT of pre-approved offers of credit and marketing lists, call (800) 353-0809 or write to P. O. Box 919 Allen, TX 75013

www.experian.com

EQUIFAX

To report fraud call (800) 525-6285 or write: P. O. Box 740250 Atlanta, GA 30374

To OPT OUT of pre-approved offers of credit: call (888) 567-8688 or write EQUIFAX OPTIONS, P. O. Box 740123 Atlanta, GA 30374-0123

www.equifax.com

TRANS UNION

To report fraud, call (800) 680-7289 or write: P. O. Box 6790 Fullerton, CA 92634

To OPT OUT of pre-approved offers of credit and marketing lists, call (800) 680-7293 or write to P. O. Box 97328 Jackson, MS 39238

www.tuc.com

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800-424-7827 phone • 703-519-8567 fax
triad@sheriffs.org • www.nationaltriad.org