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THE INCREASING CASES OF IDENTITY THEFTS

With the rapid growth and advancements in technology a new age problem is hunting us down now-a-days. This is the threat of identity theft. Everyday a lot of people all around the world face this problem. For example, the US has faced thousands of false claims of insurance and credit cards just because of the problem of identity theft. It has become the number one threat to our privacy both online and offline which is a real cause to worry about.

Mainly the hackers and the spammers are responsible for this crime. They easily penetrate to our e-mail ids, online databases, company sites etc. Then they collect all the relevant personal data about us from these sources. They do not do this just for enjoyment or for some funny purposes. Rather big and dangerous consequences await us if someone gets hold of our private data. Hackers can derive their required data about us by various means like infiltrating and scanning our online transactions, billing statements, our contacts, company transactions, our friend lists etc. Sometimes just for their data gathering misadventures our accounts undergo suspension. Then these identity thieves use our data to request money from our friends or contacts, make insurance claims or compensations. Except emails, these unsocial elements may use programs like the keyloggers. By this program they can accumulate data about us from our frequently used computers. So, you should be always careful while sending and receiving personal information online. Moreover public computers are very risky for personal uses.

Of late the business of identity theft has become an organized crime. As the penalties and terms associated with such crimes are not so strict so criminals have been shifting focus to this crime sector. The organized identity thieves are taking over the control of some insurance companies, mini businesses, health clinics and some government offices. Some insiders are also helping them pretty often. By all these means now they are capable of collecting a lot of personal data everyday. Later these data are being used to rob of thousands of people from their dues and assets.

A lot of identity theft cases involve our relatives. This makes the situation worse as we do not want to charge our relatives for stealing our personal information. So, we should always be careful while trusting a person both online and offline. Moreover all the links coming to your mail inbox and IMs should be properly identified before acting upon them.



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If you are a regular internet surfer, then at times someone or some sites may ask you for your personal information, passwords or IDs. Before revealing such data to these parties always carefully observe their credentials. Try to familiarize yourself with the anti-virus softwares, firewalls, spam filters, parental controls etc. These will help you to protect your information up to some extent from the identity thieves.

In this new world privacy issues are becoming very important. With so many cases of data theft right to privacy issues are emerging too with good pace.