



The ONE SOURCE for all your credit reporting needs

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FCRA SEMINAR OCT. 19TH

We will have our next semiannual seminar on Wed., Oct. 19th at the Alpha Park Library in Bartonville. It will be from 1:00pm until 4:00pm.

We will review the Fair Credit Reporting Act, permissible purposes, and requirements for consumer loans and mortgage compliance.

We will also review Consumer Credit Reports, how to read them and get more information from the various formats and options.

This seminar is excellent for compliance review and for new loan processors. Call us to reserve your place.

VERIFYING NEW ACCOUNTS

We now have two different services to help you identify and verify new customers: eFunds Debit Report and Experian's Authentication Services. If you wish to use either of these services call or e-mail us. More information is on our web page under CREDIT PRODUCTS. Then click: Authentication Services.

SPEAKERS

If you need a speaker for your civic organization or school, give us a call. Our current topics are: ID Theft and free and not so free credit reports and how and when to get them.

CHECKING ACCOUNT HISTORIES

We can now offer a service similar to ChexSystems. The service is called: eFunds Debit Report. eFunds owns ChexSystems.

This is a report from a national database that contains millions of consumers banking account records.

The report gives you information about checking and debit accounts. Some of information reported are: the number of open (unpaid) and paid accounts, merchants names, ABA numbers, check #s, check dates, DL#s, date paid if any, and names of recent inquiries.

This service is used by many banks before they open new checking and savings

accounts. This is a FCRA regulated report, so you do need a permissible purpose.

Call or e-mail us if you would like more information.

AUTHENTICATION SERVICES

Authentication Services allows you to verify new customer information and helps ensure that your customer is who he or she claims to be.

With Authentication Services, you can:

Validate and verify customer information to ensure accuracy.

Identify inconsistencies with consumer information.

Determine the likelihood that the true customer supplied the correct information.

Identify potential fraudulent applications.

Ask top-of-mind questions designed only to be answerable by the true consumer.

There are three levels of Authentication Services.

Level One provides:

Essential service for verification of name, address, SS #, date of birth, driver's license number and telephone #.

Alerts to high-risk addresses or phone numbers.

Cross-references to the office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) database of Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) and blocked persons.

A standardized address with ZIP+4 coding.

A verification score that summarizes more than 70 types of result codes.

U.S. CONSUMER CREDIT UP \$4.39 BLN IN JULY

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8 (Reuters) - U.S. consumer credit rose \$4.39 billion in July, less than expected, as credit card debt fell, a Federal Reserve report showed on Thursday.

The central bank said total consumer debt outstanding grew to a seasonally adjusted \$2.157 trillion, up from a revised \$2.152 trillion in June.

Wall Street analysts polled by Reuters had expected a rise of \$9.9 billion in consumer credit in July.

The Fed said non revolving credit -- made up of closed-end loans for cars, boats, education expenses and holidays -- rose \$5.42 billion in July. Revolving credit, which includes credit and charge cards, fell \$1.03 billion. (www.collectionindustry.com)

ONLINE FRAUD 'AHEAD' OF CREDIT-CARD COMPANY'S EXPERTS

The top security experts at the world's two biggest credit-card associations said on Monday that the battle against Internet-based thieves had reached a stalemate and the industry would have to spend millions of dollars over the next decade just to keep up with the criminals.

Speaking at a conference here, John Shaughnessy, senior vice president for fraud prevention at Visa USA and Suzanne Lynch, vice president for security and risk services at MasterCard International, said that organized crime rings -- with the help, in many cases, of former Soviet KGB cryptographers -- were successfully using the Internet and "crimeware" software programs to circumvent the defenses credit-card issuers erected against them.

The credit-card companies were battling loosely knit, elusive criminal networks responsible for much of the fraud, they said.

"They're very, very good at what they're doing," Shaughnessy told attendees at the Bank Card Conference, "and they're a few steps ahead of us in a couple of areas. They've done their homework about the payments system and because of (them) we all have a chance to lose some sleep at night."

The sobering assessment came one day after Symantec Corp., the world's biggest security software maker, released a report that showed hacking was no longer just the pass-time of precocious teenagers, but now was the province of organized criminals looking to gain access to personal information of computer users -- and their assets.

Visa's Shaughnessy said FBI data showed the number of Internet-related credit-card crime reports rose 66 percent in 2004 and the average reported loss associated

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with the online scams tripled to \$2,400 from \$800 in 2003.

Made tougher by the speed with which the criminals exploit even the most harmless information breaches, Lynch said.

Lynch said that as the Red Cross began issuing MasterCard debit cards to victims of Hurricane Katrina earlier this month, a newspaper photographer working on a story about the program took a picture of one recipient holding a card. The photo was quickly posted on the Internet web. "Within eight hours," Lynch said, "there was fraud on the card."

"Somebody had seen the picture - and unfortunately they hadn't blocked the number - and so somebody used the card fraudulently." (James B. Kelleher, 9-21-05 collectionindustry.com © Reuters 2005. All Rights Reserved)

TYPOSQUATTERS HIJACK U.S. CREDIT REPORT SITE

By Robert Lemos, SecurityFocus
Published Monday 18th July 2005

Privacy-sensitive US citizens aiming to get their government-mandated annual free credit reports have to be careful not to endanger their sensitive data instead, stated a report released last Thursday.

More than 200 domains with similar spellings to the official AnnualCreditReport.com site have been registered by private companies to take advantage of consumers' typos. At least 112 of the domains direct wayward consumers to sites that take advantage of a victim's mistake, including sites that collect the visitor's social-security number (SSN) for marketing purposes, said Pam Dixon, executive director for the World Privacy Forum, the privacy advocacy group that published the report.

"When you have 220 million people who are ready to put in an SSN, but a typo sends them to the wrong domain, then you have a problem," Dixon said. "I don't know how a consumer could wind their way through this labyrinth and see all the pitfalls."

The Annual Credit Report web site was mandated by Congress with the passage in December 2003 of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions (FACT) Act, a mix of consumer and credit-industry protections. Among the pro-consumer parts of the legislation is a

mandate that the three major credit agencies allow Americans to receive a free credit report every year. Consumers must be allowed to order the reports through the mail, by phone or over the internet. The three credit agencies established the AnnualCreditReport.com site to service internet requests. The site is managed by a joint effort, known as the Central Source, between those credit agencies and the Federal Trade Commission.

However, a steady stream of complaints from consumers, whose typos or use of similar names have landed them on link farms and impostor sites, also began with the activation of the services, said Dixon.

"People started calling us, complaining about various domains," she said. "There is a whole range of computing skill out there among consumers - educating 200 million people is hard. I think there is a lot more work to do."

The number of sites have more than doubled to 112, since the WPF published its first report, based on consumer complaints, in February.

In one case, the domain "wwwannualcreditreport.com" led to a site that requested visitors' social-security numbers and then shared that information with a number of other companies, according to the report. After a complaint to the Central Source in early June, the site was taken down.

Another 68 domains are owned by Domain Sponsor, a subsidiary of Oversee.net, and lead to web sites hosting links of other sites offering credit reports. Oversee.net did not return requests for comment.

Legitimate companies, or their affiliates, are also using visitors' typos to redirect consumers to their web sites, according to the report. For example,

"annualcreditmonitoringreport.com" leads people to:

FreeCreditReport.com, a site owned by TrueCredit, a subsidiary of the TransUnion credit bureau.

TransUnion did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Another four web sites, with names such as "creditreportannually.com" and "annualonlinecreditreport.com," lead consumers to credit-checking company, Intelius. The company offers background checks and people searches for a fee.

While the company is under

agreement with an affiliate to not sell the sites, chairman and CEO Naveen Jain said the company is now considering asking visitors if they intended to go to the AnnualCreditReport.com site.

In the end, Dixon believes that navigating the online world may be too difficult for the average consumer and recommends that any nontechnical users contact the credit bureaus by phone or mail.

CELL-PHONE SPAM IS NOW A CRIME

An Arizona appellate court ruled Tuesday that a 1991 federal law's ban against using autodialers to call cell phones applies to sending e-mail text messages with unsolicited advertisements — a technology not in vogue when the law was enacted.

The unanimous ruling by a three-judge Court of Appeals panel upholds a trial judge's pretrial ruling in favor of a man who had sued a mortgage company in 2001 after it sent two unsolicited text messages to his cell phone. Rodney L. Joffe claimed that the calls by Acacia Mortgage violated the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991. (9-22-05, collectionindustry.com)

SITE INSPECTIONS

Starting Oct. 1st, Experian will begin charging up to \$150.00 for site inspections on new creditors' businesses and **annually** for businesses operating out of a residence.

If you operate your business from your home, and if you have not had a site inspection in the last 12 months, you will not be allowed to pull Experian reports. If you wish to continue pulling credit reports, but do not want to pay for the annual site inspection, call us for other alternatives.

KCB INFO SERVICES HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm

KCB Information Services offers: Consumer credit reports, Business Credit reports, Employment Credit reports, Residential Mortgage Credit Reports, Merged Credit Reports, Criminal background checks, Tenant Screening Reports, Flood Zone Determination, Flood Life of Loan Certification, Identity Authentication and eFunds Debit Reports.

The KCB Information Services has served businesses since 1928 and serves central Illinois for Experian and Equifax.