**Module 6 Paper**

This paper will seek to answer the questions given in this assignment regarding the film ‘Identity Thief’. There are two types of identity theft portrayed in this movie. The first, was done by Melissa McCarthy’s character, Dawn Budgie, to Jason Bateman’s character, Sandy Peterson. Depicted was a phone scam that acquired all of Sandy’s information. As stated in the book, a Phone scam can consist of many different proposals to gather your information, but in the movie, it was for a protective service. This is a “Free” trial type of attack. The second was a combination of Sandy and Dawn to physically steal information out a headquarters to gain credit card information on Jon Favreau’s character, Harold Cornish. This type of attack is done in person, and usually the thief needs to break and enter in order gather said information.

As stated previously, Dawn Budgie stole Sandy Peterson’s identity through a generic phone scam. Dawn called Sandy about a service that required Sandy to provide his personal information including a social security number. Stated was a free trial given to Sandy, but, also, there was a sense of urgency as it was a protective service. This information was gathered from reading the book and watching the movie.

In the movie, many false definitions were explained. One such was that police do not have jurisdiction in other states, so apprehending the suspect would be very difficult. This is untrue, as the suspect can be apprehended by any police officer and the papers are then processed up through the courts. Second, the police chief gives an optimistic view of prosecution rate as high as five to ten percent, when in reality, its less than one in one thousand. So, barring the comedic factor, this is not a realistic portrayal of identity theft.

Identity theft can be explained by the Deterrence theory. This theory asserts that individuals will not engage in crime if the consequences outweigh the benefits, and the consequences must be swift, certain, and severe. The reason why Deterrence theory applies to identity theft is because as stated previously, less than one in one thousand are prosecuted. This means that the consequences are less than uncertain and fall closer into an impossibility. Thus, this makes the consequences slow. As for severity, identity theft can be as small as petty theft with a minimum $1,000 bond and less than a year in prison upwards to a felony depending on the amount stolen.

**REFERENCES**

[1] Catherine Marcum (2014), *Cyber Crime,* Ch. 6,Wolters Kluwer Law & Business in Ney York: Frederick, MD.

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[3] State Law Makers (2020), *Identity Theft*, <https://www.ncsl.org/research/financial-services-and-commerce/identity-theft-state-statutes.aspx>