Final Project Status Report: Team 8

Our Team:

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Topic:

Identity Theft – Detection, Mitigation, and Protection

Our Intended Approach for Preliminary Research

*For the Report Deliverable:*

We have decided that it would be best for our team to take an iterative approach. We will start by researching identity theft on a broad level and understand the basics before diving into the different types; the impacts; and steps to prevent, detect, and mitigate.

We want to address the relevance, growing concern, and impacts of this topic at the start to show the importance of our research project. Once we describe the various ways identities can be stolen and used, we will explain how to take preventative measures. However, security is a process, and it is never perfect; so, we will then describe the red flags to look for in order to detect identity theft early and before it is too damaging. We will also include the more subtle signs of it having occurred, as identity theft is not always readily apparent. Because it is always best practice to be prepared for worse case scenarios, we will wrap up our research with actions to take after detecting identity fraud. To conclude, we will provide links and additional data/figures in an appendix and share our resources so readers can further their research.

Identity theft has been around for a long time and the threat is steadily increasing. Furthermore, as identity theft evolves, the value of having relevant research and analysis is immeasurable. With that in mind, we want to focus on research on the

recent years – preferably looking at statistics and data from the last five years.

As for our timeline, we plan to present our findings on April 12th, 2022. With this deadline, we anticipate our research phase to be completed around the first or second week of March. From there, we will have roughly a month to tie all of our research together and prepare our presentation.

Preliminary research will be used to solidify our ‘Table of Contents’ and provide more details for our presentation plans. This will be shown in our mid-February Status Report.

*For the Presentation:*

To start our presentation, we will introduce ourselves and then our topic followed by an agenda of what we will be discussing. For the rest of our presentation, we plan to utilize visuals such as tables, graphs, figures, and concise text to illustrate the information while we explain our research on identity theft.

We are choosing this approach because we want to be mindful of our slides so that they are not distracting but still add value. Alongside these visuals, we will utilize text to highlight and guide the audience through key points such as the topic and subtopics of each section, enhancing the retention of the information being presented and avoiding text-heavy slides.

We will conclude with a high-level overview and key takeaways for our audience. By doing this, it will allow us to show how all of our research comes together and leaves the listeners with what we think are the most vital details to remember.

Resources Found at this Point:

“Data Security.” *Federal Trade Commission*, www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/privacy-and-security/data-security.

*Medical Identity Theft - Federal Trade Commission*. www.bulkorder.ftc.gov/system/files/publications/973a-medical-idtheft-what-to-know-what-to-do-508.pdf.

“Identitytheft.gov.” *IdentityTheft.gov*, [www.identitytheft.gov/#/Info-Lost-or-Stolen](#/Info-Lost-or-Stolen).

“Identity Theft.” *Consumer Information*, 4 Sept. 2019, www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft.

“Identity Theft.” *The United States Department of Justice*, 16 Nov. 2020, [www.justice.gov/criminal-fraud/identity-theft/identity-theft-and-identity-fraud](http://www.justice.gov/criminal-fraud/identity-theft/identity-theft-and-identity-fraud).

“Identity Theft: What to Do.” *Federal Trade Commission: Identity Theft*, www.identitytheft.gov/#/Steps.

“Security Tip (ST05-019): Preventing and Responding to Identity Theft.” *Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency CISA*, 1 Feb. 2021, [www.cisa.gov/tips/st05-019](http://www.cisa.gov/tips/st05-019).

Van Divner, Mark, and Ally Bank. “What To Do If Your Identity Is Stolen.” *ADT Security Systems*, [www.adt.com/resources/what-to-do-if-identity-stolen.](http://www.adt.com/resources/what-to-do-if-identity-stolen. )

“What to Know about Identity Theft.” *Consumer Information*, 2 Feb. 2022, www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/what-know-about-identity-theft.

“What to Know about Tax Identity Theft.” *Consumer Information*, 11 May 2021, www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/what-know-about-tax-identity-theft.

Team feedback:

As a team, we have been communicating in a group message as well as collaborating in calls through Microsoft Teams to synchronously work on ICE assignments and the research project. Going forward in our project, we will continue to meet virtually through Teams in order to share our findings and progress with the rest of the team and to pull our project together to be one cohesive report. Exchanges of group messages will continue for times in-between this collaboration and for scheduling purposes.

In the days ahead with respect to completing the Presentation and compiling the Final Report, we will continue sharing our research and adding to our outline. Around Spring Break, we will start finalizing our Final Report and discussing, as a team, the most important parts we want to highlight in our presentation. We plan to rehearse our presentation a couple times before our actual date. As of right now, since we are presenting April 12th, we plan to start practicing the week of April 5th.

So far, we have not encountered any issues or concerns that need addressing. We have all been respectful about other members’ time and have found ways to work around each other's schedules.

What Our Team Has Accomplished to Date:

To date, we are far along into our research and have started an outline for our Final Report. In a shared document, we each continue to share the links that we find to be useful with a small summary of what each link is about so other members of the team can reference it or use it to gain a better understanding of our topic. In a separate shared document, we have formulated an outline that is separated by the different sections of our report. The different sections are laid out in the table of contents shown below. We have all been contributing to the outline as our schedules permit. To date, our ‘Mitigation’ section has had the most prepared.

How We Plan to Achieve Analysis, Synthesis, and/or Evaluation in Bloom’s Taxonomy:

We will primarily focus on using the analysis level of Bloom’s Taxonomy; specifically, comparing and contrasting the cognitive and affective domains of identity theft. The affective domain is the readers’ emotional and attitudinal relationship to the topic being discussed. The cognitive domain is the readers’ knowledge of the topic. To achieve the cognitive domain, we will start our report by explaining terms that will be used to gain a better understanding of the topic, such as personally identifiable information, followed by a section explaining identity theft, the different forms it can take, its history, as well as its relevance and common misconceptions. We believe a thorough discussion of these topics will help the reader’s cognitive domain. By addressing common misconceptions, we can correct the readers’ misunderstanding of identity theft and the damage it can cause while also providing them with accurate information. To achieve the affective domain, we have dedicated a section to discussing the impacts that identity theft has on an individual or business physically, mentally, and the consequences that follow. By addressing the impacts, we are striving to shift the readers’ attitude towards identity theft to bring attention to the frequency, severity, and cost of this threat.

We will also use the evaluation level of Bloom’s Taxonomy. We will focus on this level in our prevention and detection sections of our report. In our prevention section, we will analyze and assess the risk of identity theft based on criteria and the standards that we determine. Both the standard as well as the criteria that we use will be disclosed in our report. Based on when the threat is detected – whether it is before, during, or after identity theft has occurred – we will judge how individuals or businesses should respond and the actions they should take.

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# **Abstract/Overview**

# **Definition**

## What is Personally Identifiable Information?

## What is Identity Theft?

## Brief History of Identity Theft

## Common Misconceptions

## Different Types

### Financial

### Medical

### Social Security (Tax Identity Fraud)

## Relevance

# **Impact**

## Physical Impact

## Psychological Impact

## Consequences for Businesses

# **Prevention**

## Risk Factors

## Steps to Prevent Theft

# **Detection**

## Signs of Identity Theft

### Warning Signs Before Theft Happens

### Warning Signs Theft is Occurring

### Signs After Identity Theft has been Committed

# **Mitigation**

## What to do When Identity Theft Occurs

### Reporting

### Damage Control

### Recovery

## Service Providers that Help Protect Identities

# **Appendix**

## Summary of Figures

## Additional Data

## Link to Report Identity Theft

* https://www.identitytheft.gov/#/

# **References**

“Data Security.” *Federal Trade Commission*, [www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/privacy-and-security/data-security](http://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/privacy-and-security/data-security).

*Medical Identity Theft - Federal Trade Commission*. www.bulkorder.ftc.gov/system/files/publications/973a-medical-idtheft-what-to-know-what-to-do-508.pdf.

“Identitytheft.gov.” *IdentityTheft.gov*, [www.identitytheft.gov/#/Info-Lost-or-Stolen](#/Info-Lost-or-Stolen).

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“What to Know about Identity Theft.” *Consumer Information*, 2 Feb. 2022, www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/what-know-about-identity-theft.

“What to Know about Tax Identity Theft.” *Consumer Information*, 11 May 2021, www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/what-know-about-tax-identity-theft.