

Scientific Poster on Identity Theft – 220CT

COURSEWORK 2016

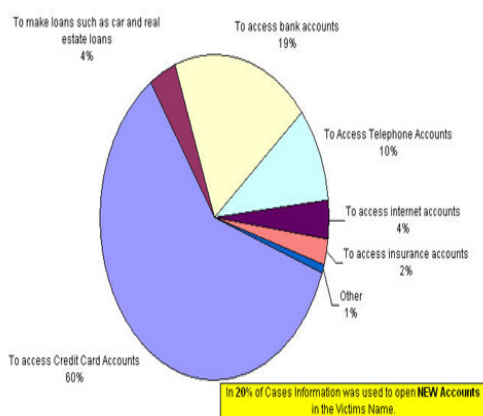
INTRODUCTION

As people living in the information age we are required to use internet daily. That means we are visiting different kinds of websites daily, which for some we are unaware of their origins but we can easily be lured into giving them some personal information in order to access them and view their content. Many of them have security protections for users and every detail which was input is stored in a hash key on a server and is unreadable to administrators, other users or hackers without a consent from the user.

PREVENTION

All of this can be prevented when being extra cautious with who you are sharing your information. Online services, banks, job agencies will ask for your Insurance number but they don't actually need it. You can leave it blank and only fill it in if they can explain to you why it is needed in the application form. If you suddenly start to receive a lot of junk mail from different stores means your address and name have been sold from your regular market to other competitors. Sign up with these services with fake information or just use prepaid credit card which can be bought almost in every store. If it is concerning your bank the problems can be saved asking for some personal confirmation number (PIN or Auth. Code) or applying for monitoring with a small cost.

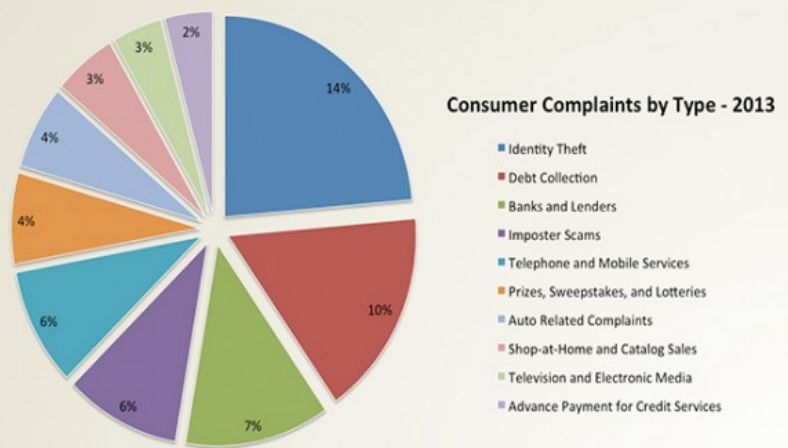
How Stolen Information Was Used



Source: Federal Trade Commission - Identity Theft Survey Report -

METHODS

There is also those kind of pages which collect data, information and even sometimes personal records and have the power to sell it to other media or government authorities for personal gain. This is also possible of happening through personal mail, shopping discount cards or street surveys. In those sheets you are required to input your names, address, age, date of birth which are then copied down to servers of the company doing the research. The big data is then sold or even in some cases given for free to other companies for research or advertisement. There are numerous cases in the US where people just having the "Social Security Number" of a person can candidate for a loan from a bank and get approved. It was even possible for deceased people to go into debt but since then the government acquired an SSN randomization and has stopped sharing the big data daily on their website which was public for everyone to see and mostly used by criminals and hackers. That is only if they have the insurance number. Either paying for reports scammers can get the rest of the data through websites collecting that info which can be around 10-30€, or phone calls pretending to be the victim to different place he was subscribed.



Conclusion

As seen on the graphs the top main reasons for customers to not be satisfied with a service is because of the too much information given by them to the company. In conclusion people are still not familiar with how most of the technology works. They have trust in their local bank or supermarket that they will care and provide the necessary security for them. Those businesses are driven by getting more and more income even if that means selling your information to third parties which they think are just names and dates and could not be used in any harm or in some cases some minor spam which cannot lead back to them. Every person has to be careful with who he shares his information and be cautious and curious if that data is going to be used by any way of that authority or if not why it is required of providing.

REFERENCES

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