**Account Take Over**

**Description 1**

An account takes over attack is a type of identity theft that involves fraud on existing financial accounts. Account take overs occur, for example, when a criminal uses a stolen credit card number to make fraudulent purchases on an existing credit line. Account take overs are the more common type of identity theft. [1]



**Description 2**

An account takeover can happen when a fraudster or computer criminal poses as a genuine customer, gains control of an account and then makes unauthorised transactions. Any account could be taken over by fraudsters, including bank, credit card, email and other service providers. [2]

**Definition 3**

Account takeover is a type of identity theft where a fraudster uses parts of the victim’s identity such as an email address to gain access to financial accounts. The perpetrator often reroutes communication about the account, keeping the victim in the dark so the thievery can continue longer. Affected accounts can include credit cards, checking and savings accounts, brokerage accounts and store loyalty rewards accounts. [3]

**Reference**

**[1]** <http://itlaw.wikia.com/wiki/Account_take_over_attack>

**[2]** <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/fraud-az-account-takeover>

**[3]** <http://www.creditcards.com/credit-card-news/account-takeover-fraud-rising.php>