



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**INTERNET CRIME COMPLAINT CENTER (IC3)  
RECEIVES RECORD NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS**

**RICHMOND, VA** In the week following the Presidential election, the IC3 received nearly 63-hundred complaints involving online fraud. That's the most ever recorded during a one-week period since the IC3 began taking complaints in 2000. At the current rate, IC3 officials predict the number of complaints could top the 300,000 mark this year for the first time.

The number one complaint was internet auction fraud. Consumers can help protect themselves by asking the following questions: does the seller want me to use something other than PayPal or a credit card? Is the mailing address I'm being asked to send payment to a Post Office box number? Does the seller have a history of negative feedback? If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes,' then you should use extreme caution before deciding to proceed with the transaction. And remember: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

The IC3 serves as a clearinghouse and a repository of cyber crime complaints where private citizens and industry can submit claims and report suspicious activity.

**About IC3**

The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) is a partnership between the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). IC3 analyzes and refers all fraudulent activity identified on the Internet to the appropriate local, state or federal law enforcement agencies. IC3 provides analytical support for cyber crime investigations and prosecutions. For more information, please visit our Web site at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov)