



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMPLAINTS OF ONLINE CRIME HIT RECORD HIGH

RICHMOND, VA The 2008 Annual Report released today by the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) reports that complaints of online crime hit a record high in 2008. IC3 received a total of 275,284 complaints, a 33.1% increase over the previous year. The total dollar loss linked to online fraud was \$265 million, about \$25 million more than in 2007. The average individual loss amounted to \$931.

While the complaints consisted of a variety of fraud types, non-delivery of merchandise and/or payment ranked number one (32.9%). Internet auction fraud was the second most reported offense (25.5%) followed by credit/debit card fraud (9.0%).

E-mail and Web pages were the two primary mechanisms by which the fraudulent contact took place. The majority of the reported perpetrators were male (77.4%) and half of them resided in one of the following states: California, New York, Florida, Texas, District of Columbia and Washington.

To see the report in its entirety, go to www.ic3.gov.

About IC3

The [Internet Crime Complaint Center](#) (IC3) is a partnership between the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) (FBI) and the [National White Collar Crime Center](#) (NW3C). IC3's mission is to serve as a vehicle to receive, develop, and refer criminal complaints regarding the rapidly expanding arena of cybercrime. The IC3 gives the victims of cybercrime a convenient and easy-to-use reporting mechanism that alerts authorities of suspected criminal or civil violations. For law enforcement and regulatory agencies at the federal, state, local and international level, IC3 provides a central referral mechanism for complaints involving Internet related crimes.

