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HOLIDAY SCAMS ABOUND
COMPLAINTS OF INTERNET FRAUD CLOSE IN ON 340K FOR '09

RICHMOND, VA The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) has received over 5,400 complaints since Black Friday. Those complaints run the gambit; from charity phishing scams to malware-infected holiday e-cards to people who unwittingly downloaded infected files while searching for lyrics to their favorite Christmas carol.

The Internet has made online shopping easy and convenient. In fact, Investors.com says online sales increased 16% on Cyber Monday compared to the same time last year and online sales overall are expected to increase by 3-5% this holiday season.

Cybercriminals keep attuned to the events of the day and they are always looking for a way “in” by keeping their scams topical, timely and relevant. They are successful, not because their victims are easy marks, but because their schemes are becoming increasingly more sophisticated.

To ensure a safe online shopping experience, always use a credit card to make Internet purchases (that way, you can contest the charge if the item is not received or if it is returned), make sure the Web site is encrypted (look for an “s” after the http in the Web address) and buy only from reputable stores and sellers.

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About NW3C

Funded for over thirty years primarily by the Department of Justice (DOJ), The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) is a leader in the fight against economic and high-tech crime. For more information, please visit www.nw3c.org.