

2007 Top 10 Internet Scams

Scam	% of complaints	Average Loss
1. Fake Check Scams <i>Consumers paid with phony checks for work or items sold, instructed to wire money back</i>	29%	\$3,310.87
2. General Merchandise <i>Sales (not through auctions), goods never delivered or misrepresented</i>	23%	\$1,136.84
3. Auctions* <i>Goods never delivered or misrepresented</i>	13%	\$1,371.08
4. Nigerian Money Offers <i>False promises of riches if consumers pay to transfer money to their bank accounts</i>	11%	\$4,043.14
5. Lotteries/Lottery Clubs <i>Requests for payment to claim lottery winnings or get help to win, often foreign lotteries</i>	7%	\$998.43
6. Advance Fee Loans <i>False promises of business or personal loans, even if credit is bad, for a fee upfront</i>	3%	\$1,310.77
7. Prizes/Sweepstakes <i>Requests for payment to claim prizes that never materialize</i>	3%	\$1,181.58
8. Phishing <i>Emails pretending to be from a well-known source, asking to confirm personal information</i>	3%	\$220.47
9. Friendship and Sweetheart Swindles <i>Con artist nurtures an online relationship, convinces victim to send money.</i>	1%	\$3,038.31
10. Internet Access Services <i>Cost of Internet access and other services misrepresented or services never provided</i>	1%	\$896.99

* In the fall of 2003, online giant eBay removed the link from its Web site to fraud.org. As a result, the number of auction complaints reported to NCL's fraud center has dropped to a fraction of its previous levels.