

First Quarter Trends

- *Fake Check Scams are now in the Top 10, and Phishing has moved up from the number ten spot to number nine.*
- *Problems with bogus scholarships and government grants have risen from 7 percent of complaints to 13 percent.*
- *Losses for prizes/ sweepstakes rose from last year's average of \$3,135 to \$5,302.*
- *Phishing losses increased from \$399 to \$598.*
- *Although they are not in the top ten, there were significant increases in complaints about bogus offers for: medical care products and services, #12; advertising space for businesses, #11; and invention promotions, #19.*
- *Use of mail and print advertisements to lure telemarketing fraud victims has risen. In 2004, 18 percent of solicitations were by mail and 9 percent were by ads in newspapers and magazines.*



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Telemarketing Scams

January—March 2005

Top Ten Scams

Category	% of All Complaints	Average Loss
Prizes/Sweepstakes <i>Requests for payment to claim prizes that never materialize</i>	31%	\$5,302
Scholarships/Educational Grants <i>Falsely promise to help get scholarships or government educational grants, for a fee</i>	13%	\$407
Credit Card Offers <i>False promises of credit cards, even if credit is bad, for a fee</i>	10%	\$258
Magazine Sales <i>Misrepresent cost of subscriptions or pretend to be publisher offering renewals</i>	7%	\$306
Advance Fee Loans <i>False promises of loans, even if credit is bad, for a fee upfront</i>	6%	\$1,583
Work-at-Home Plans <i>Materials sold on false promises of big profits working at home</i>	4%	\$60
Lotteries/Lottery Clubs <i>Requests for payment to claim lottery winnings or get help to win, often foreign lotteries</i>	4%	\$1,808
Buyers Clubs <i>Charges for memberships in discount buying clubs consumers never agreed to join</i>	3%	\$246
Phishing <i>Calls pretending to be from well-known source asking to confirm personal information</i>	3%	\$598
Fake Check Scams <i>Consumers paid with phony checks for work or items sold, instructed to wire money back</i>	3%	\$7,115



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Ages of Consumers

<i>Ages</i>	<i>% of Complaints</i>
19 and Under	1%
20-29	17%
30-39	13%
40-49	20%
50-59	16%
60-69	9%
70-79	13%
80+	11%

Top 5 Methods of Payment

<i>Category</i>	<i>% of Payments</i>
Wire	30%
Bank Debit	25%
Check	15%
Credit Card	12%
Money Order	8%

Methods of Contact by Telemarketing Crooks

<i>Category</i>	<i>% of Contacts</i>
Phone	62%
Mail	23%
Print	12%
Other	3%

Top 5 Locations

Victims

<i>Location*</i>
1. Montana
2. Connecticut
3. Delaware
4. West Virginia
5. New Mexico

Crooks

<i>Location</i>	<i>% of Complaints</i>
Countries Outside U.S./Canada	13%
Florida/New York (tie)	11%
Canada	10%
California	9%
Nevada	7%

*relative to state population