



Is the Online World More Dangerous Than the Real World?

Myth vs. Fact

Myth: Identity theft usually happens on the Internet.

Fact: Online methods accounted for only 11% of identity theft in 2009.
(Javelin Strategy and Research, 2009)

Most identity theft occurs offline. Stolen wallets and paperwork account for almost half (43%) of all identity theft.

Steps you can take to help prevent identity theft include:

- Defend your computer with firewall, antivirus, and antispyware software. Keep all software current (including your Web browser) with automatic updates. Password-protect your wireless connection at home.
- Never share with strangers personal information that could be used to steal your identity, such as your government-issued ID number.
- Never leave your wallet, purse, mobile phone, or laptop unattended.
- Create strong passwords that are hard to guess, and do not share them with others.

For more tips, go to:
microsoft.com/protect/fraud.

Myth: Child predators are moving to the Internet to exploit children by pretending they are children.

Fact: In 95% of Internet-initiated sex crimes against minors, the children knew the perpetrators were adults.
(Crimes Against Children Research Center, 2010)

Things you can do to help protect children on the Internet include:

- Educate yourself and children about the risks of online contact with strangers.
- Use parental controls to monitor and limit where children go on the Internet.
- Help children preserve their privacy on the Internet by teaching them to limit the information they divulge.

For more tips, visit:
microsoft.com/protect/familysafety/default.aspx.

