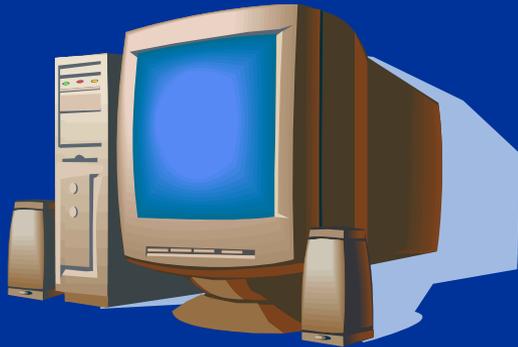




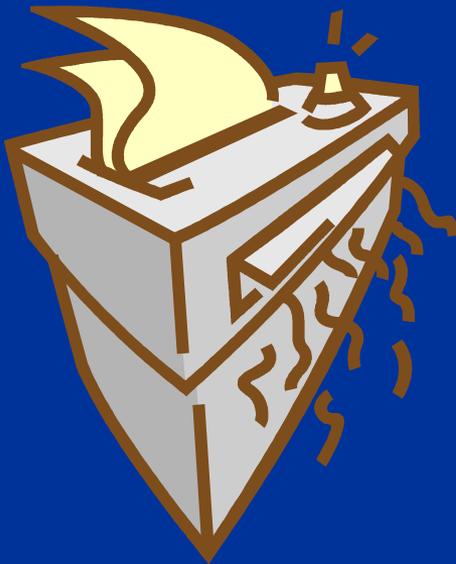
# Identity Theft and Cybersafety



National Crime Prevention Council



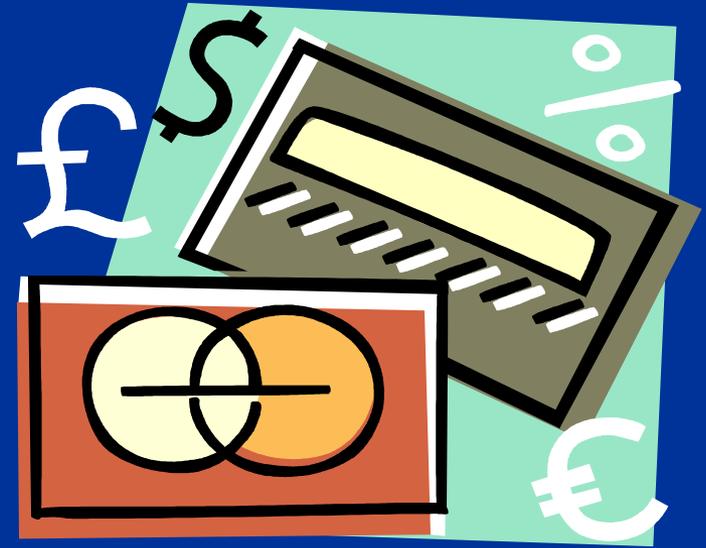
# Identity Theft



- Don't give out personal information over the phone.
- Shred all documents, especially those containing credit card offers or other personal information.
- Don't use your mother's maiden name as a password.
- Minimize the identification information and the number of cards you carry.

# Identity Theft (continued)

- Don't carry your Social Security card, birth certificate, or passport with you, unless absolutely necessary.
- Don't put your telephone number or Social Security number on checks.
- Pay attention to your billing cycles.
- Obtain a copy of your credit report twice a year.



# Your Credit Report

- You should check your credit report at least twice a year. The three major credit bureaus are
  - Equifax: [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)
  - Trans Union: [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)
  - Experian: [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)
- The Fair Credit Reporting Act allows you to get one free credit report from each of the credit bureaus once per year.
  - For more information visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)



# Cybersafety



- Be cautious before giving out your name and personal information to others online.
- Be careful about sending personal information over the Internet, by email, or over cellular phones.
- Don't use passwords that are obvious.
- Avoid break-ins by changing your password regularly and memorizing it.
- Shop online with companies that you know.
- Look for the “lock” icon on the webpage.



# Cybersafety (continued)

- Use a secure browser that will encrypt or scramble purchase information.
- Be cautious before agreeing to meet face-to-face with someone you've met online.
- Be careful before responding to messages from unfamiliar persons.
- Look for webpages that have a proper title, additional resources, or a person that you are able to contact.

