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For Immediate Release

NEARLY THREE OUT OF FOUR ID THEFT VICTIMS DO NOT KNOW SOURCE OF CRIME, ACCORDING TO [IDENTITY THEFT ASSISTANCE CENTER SURVEY](#)

Anonymous sources of crime could grow with criminals' sophistication

WASHINGTON, DC, March 25, 2009— A survey of more than 1500 identity theft victims shows that approximately three out of four, or 72%, do not know the source of the crime, according to ITAC, the [Identity Theft Assistance Center](#).

“Many of the people we help are frustrated because they don’t know how their information fell into the wrong hands,” said ITAC President Anne Wallace. “Your best bet is to treat your personal information as you do your personal safety – like buckling your seat belt. Keep data in your home and workplace in a secure location, keep your anti-virus software, browser and operating system updated, and monitor your accounts online for unusual activity.”

“We may see these anonymous sources grow since criminals use stolen consumer data as currency and are becoming more targeted and organized,” said Michael Stanfield, chairman and CEO of [Intersections Inc.](#), a leading global provider of consumer and corporate identity risk management services. “Technology allows criminals to act anonymously to steal information off your computer with key logging programs, or to create new identities using bits of information from public records.”

Twenty-eight percent of the 1530 victims helped by ITAC said they knew the source of the crime. Most cases (26.5%) stem from friends, relatives and in-home employees who have access to personal information, followed by computer-related identity crime (21.6%). Lost/stolen wallet, checkbook or credit card accounts for 15.1%, followed by stolen and fraudulent use of the mail (11.6%) and corrupt businesses or employees (11.6%). Breaches of consumer data accounted for 4.7% of the cases.

To learn more about how you can protect yourself, visit www.identitytheftassistance.org. Listen to a podcast on this subject on the official ITAC blog, www.itacidentityblog.com.

About ITAC

ITAC, the Identity Theft Assistance Center (www.identitytheftassistance.org), is a nonprofit coalition of financial services companies united in our commitment to protect our customers from identity theft. ITAC's victim assistance service – which has helped more than 50,000 consumers recover from identity theft – is available at no cost to the millions of consumers who have an account at an ITAC member company. A leading provider of identity protection services through its ITAC Sentinel® brand (www.itacsentinel.com), ITAC protects all consumers through partnerships with law enforcement, education and identity management services.

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