

INTERNET USERS

BEWARE



We depend on computers for a great many things. You can do your shopping online, chat or make calls to friends and family. You probably even use the Internet to do your banking and pay bills. But just how careful are you?

Identity theft is nothing new. Before the Internet, criminals stole ID cards and pretended to be other people in order to withdraw money from bank accounts, take out bank loans or commit other crimes. So, (1) _____, they reported it to the police. Nowadays, however, cybercriminals can steal your identity online without warning. You may be a victim (2) _____!

Phishing is one of the oldest methods used in cybercrime. It often involves emails (3) _____, or offer you money and prizes. Some of these emails ask you to respond and confirm your personal information; others include a link to a website (4) _____. As a result, the sender can read your emails, your bank account information and credit card numbers and observe your online activities. Suddenly, they know everything about you.

Internet scam analysts and statisticians say (5) _____ for credit card scams. And it's easier than a lot of people realise: personal information—names, addresses and dates of birth—can be obtained on public record sites, and any information you put online, (6) _____, can be used against you.

So, be aware of what information you have online and who might be watching!

- A. and not even be aware of what has happened
- B. that identity theft is most commonly used
- C. when they did that
- D. which secretly downloads a program onto your computer
- E. it has a hidden camera
- F. no matter how unimportant it may seem
- G. as soon as someone lost their purse or wallet
- H. that warn you about problems with your bank account

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- How should criminals pay for breaking the law?
- What should be done with young people who commit minor crimes?
- How effective are alternative means of punishment such as community service? Why?

