

E Crime



Key Points to Consider

- Always have strong passwords
- Use a good data security package
- Regularly scan for viruses
- Don't give out your email address unless you know it's safe
- Never allow anyone to take control of your computer for any reason
- Never open any mail that you don't recognise or looks like a scam or may contain a virus

E-crime refers to a criminal activity where a computer or computer network is the source, tool, target or place of a crime. It also includes a wide range of other types of crimes such as fraud, theft, blackmail, forgery and embezzlement.

The growth of this business has opened additional channels for criminals to exploit. The total cost of e-crime to the retail sector was £205.4 million in 2011/12, with much of this cost coming from the amount having to be spent on increased security measures.

Ways to protect your business from e-criminals include:

Passwords - Consider your passwords – ensure that different passwords are used for different accounts, use strong passwords that are difficult for people to guess.

Data Security – use a hardware firewall, encrypt sensitive data, use passwords in accordance with a password policy, control the use of data transfer devices, employ a backup device to prevent permanent data loss, and formulate a 'Disaster Recovery Plan'.

Spam – Spam email can contain malicious codes that can cause huge damage to businesses. Consider using internet security software packages that include anti-spam and spyware solutions.



**SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY**



For larger organisations, server based anti-spam solutions are available. Spam can also be limited by ensuring that staff don't give out their email addresses over the internet unless necessary.

Phishing – It is unlikely that a reputable company will have lost account information and if they had, they would never request information via email. Ensure your clients are aware that as a company, you would never request sensitive data via email. If you believe you have clicked on a bogus email, do not click on any links, instead, immediately restart your computer and scan for viruses. If you believe you have been the victim of e-crime, contact police immediately on 101.

Action Fraud acts as a central point of contact for information fraud and financially motivated internet crime. If you've been scammed, ripped off or conned, report it to them immediately at

www.actionfraud.police.uk

Not only will your report be investigated, but it will also allow a picture of fraudulent activity across the UK to be formulated, and trends to be identified.

Finally - If you are contacted and told there is a problem with your computer which can be fixed there and then by the other party remotely accessing your computer, **do not allow them access.**

Incidents have occurred where users have been contacted and told their computer has a virus, is running slowly or has a problem which urgently needs fixing and that for a fee they can rectify the problem by being allowed remote access. Once they are allowed access they gain valuable information about the user and use that information to steal from them. Never allow anyone remote access and if you think there is a problem with your computer take it to a reputable dealership for them to check it.



Sir Robert Peel created the Metropolitan Police in 1829. He set out nine principles for policing. The First Principle was:

“To prevent crime and disorder, as an alternative to their repression by military force and severity of legal punishment.”



[Click here for further Crime Reduction Advice](#)

More general information can be found at
<https://www.askthe.police.uk/content/@1.htm>

Secured by Design (SBD) tests and assesses the quality security products and crime prevention projects. It supports the principles of ‘designing out crime’ through physical security and processes.

We advise that you look on the SBD website for all of your Security products.

<http://www.securedbydesign.com/>



More Security Products can also be found at:
<http://www.soldsecure.com/>



You can always report intelligence or information anonymously to Crimestoppers

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>



Call us on 101. In an emergency always dial 999