First Bank & Trust Company
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Identify Theft

Although some may think identify theft is rare, statistics show otherwise. Identity theft also known as identity fraud has become more prevalent as we become more digitalized. Many factors of our daily lives are increasingly transacted online, therefore the likelihood of our personal data falling into the wrong hands goes up.

Identity theft is the act of a criminal obtaining important information of someone's personal identifiable information (PII) such as social security number, license number, name, address etc. They use that information to obtain credit cards, purchase goods and services or even commit crimes; all in the victim's name. There are two types of identity theft: true name and account takeover. True name identify theft means the criminal uses personal information to open new accounts. Account takeover is when the thief uses personal information to gain access to the victim's existing accounts.

Statistics show consumers lost more than $56 billion to identity theft and fraud in 2020. In 2019, 14.4 million consumers became victims of identity fraud and more than one in four older adults, aged 55 and over, have experienced identity theft.

There are many different types of identity theft that can have a significant impact which include:

- Financial identity theft
- Tax-related identity theft
- Medical identity theft
- Criminal identity theft
- Senior identity theft

These types of thefts are not a one size fits all model. Bad actors use many different types of techniques to commit this type of crime. It is important to recognize some of the methods used such as:

- Dumpster diving
- Phishing
- Mail theft

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Hanover, Virginia
804-550-5700
Harrisonburg, Virginia
540-434-0671
Lebanon, Virginia East
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Lebanon, Virginia West
276-889-4622
Lynchburg Virginia
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Norton, Virginia
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Staunton, Virginia
540-885-8000
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540-248-7700
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Wise, Virginia
276-328-3439
Woodstock, Virginia
540-459-7228
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276-228-1125
Operations Center
276-623-2265

Tennessee Bank Locations
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743-212-2013
Red Oak, North Carolina
252-220-4208
Roanoke, Virginia
540-774-0269
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Bristol, Virginia
276 -644-9900

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It is important to know the signs of identity theft and what to do to protect yourself from this type of crime. There are certain things to look out for that might indicate you have become a victim of identity theft. Some of those signs include:

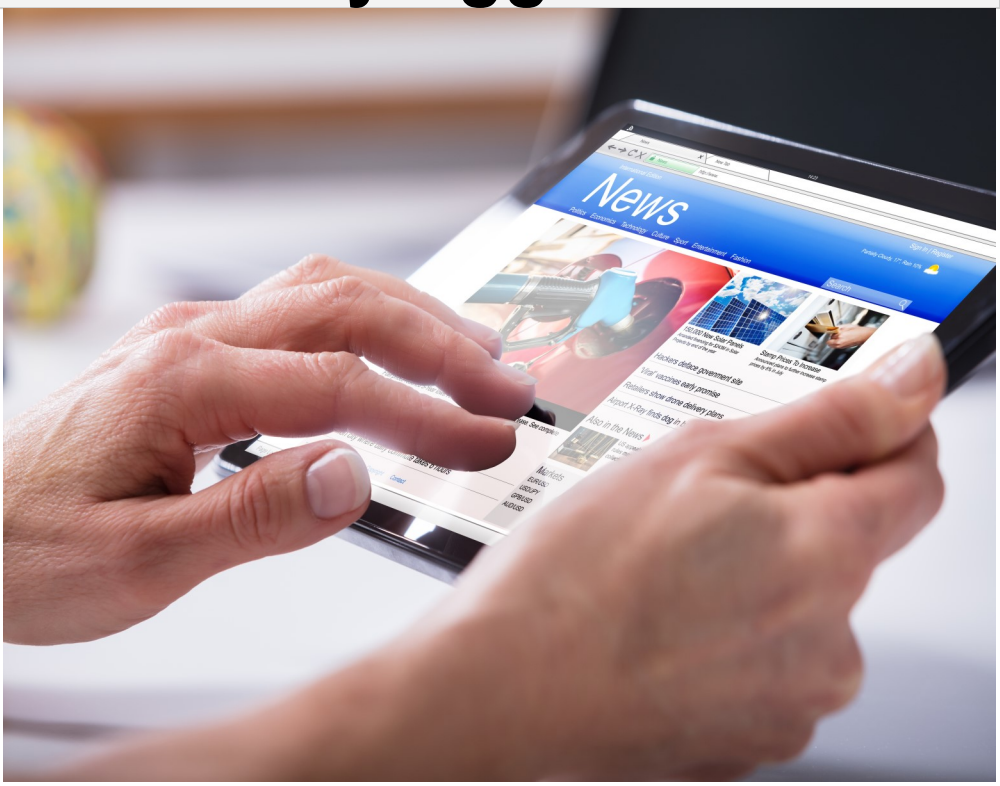
- Receiving bills for items you didn't buy
- Calls from debt collectors for accounts you didn't open
- Denials for loan applications

To protect yourself from identity theft individuals should regularly check bank statements, credit card statements and credit reports. Also pay attention if your regular bills do not arrive on time, it could be a sign that your mailing address may have been changed without your permission or knowledge. Some other ways to protect yourself is to:

- Keep your Social Security number (SSN) secure.
- Don't share personal information (birthdate, Social Security number, or bank account number)
- Collect mail every day. If you plan on being out if town, place a hold on your mail until you return
- If bills or financial statements are late, contact the sender
- Make sure your devices are secure

Sources:
https://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/definition/identity-theft
https://www.usa.gov/identity-theft
https://www.identitytheft.gov/

What is a Keylogger?



Keylogger is a type of spyware used to give bad actors access to monitor keystrokes in real time. The software is installed on a victim's computer and records everything typed. That information is then sent to a server or a link is sent via email where the hacker receives the data.

There are different types of key loggers. One type of keylogger are hardware devices embedded within your internal computer hardware. Another type is software that can be installed on a victims' device. Software is the preferred method for keyloggers. Most keyloggers are used to gain access to credit card data that is entered online with a device.

Keyloggers can infect devices in several ways. The most common is through phishing. Other ways include Trojan viruses and Infected system. Most victims do not even know they have this type of spyware on their computer. This represents a major threat since a lot of confidential data can be gathered such as social security numbers, emails, text messages, passwords and financial information before the victim realizes they have been hacked.

It is important to recognize the warning signs that your device may have been infiltrated by a keylogger. If you notice slower computer performance when surfing the net, abnormal delays when starting programs, pop-ups or new icons on your desktop that may be a sign that your device may have keylogger spyware.

There are some ways to protect against keyloggers:

⇒ Use caution when engaging in any online activity

⇒ do not open attachments or downloading files from unknown sources

⇒ Use Two-factor authentication

⇒ Consider installing Anti-keyloggers software

Sources:
What is Keystroke Logging and Keyloggers? | Kaspersky
What is a keylogger? How attackers can monitor everything you type | CSO Online