

## Cyber Crime at Christmas

by

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Online retailers and cyber criminals are both groups, which work overtime during the Christmas holiday season when there is a rise in the number of fraudulent orders. Techniques to over-ride tightened security practices are being created by cyber-criminals as fast as retailers install more secure systems, although evidence appears anecdotal. The Cyber fraud offenders appear to see the busy season and hence larger volumes of transactions as ripe for taking advantage of. Such fraud against online retailers involves stolen credit card numbers rather than breaches of a merchant's online systems. Criminals use the stolen card data to buy goods they can easily resell, or to prove the card data is valid before reselling that data to other criminals.

Surveys reveal that approximately one and a half percent of the average retailer's sales turn out to be fraudulent. Online merchants who suffer from illegal purchases repay credit card companies for the purchase and shopping surveys reveal that millions of Internet users reject online shopping because of security fears.

Fraud rates are almost twice the rate for smaller merchants compared to r larger merchants with the main fraud technique being the purchase of gift cards with stolen credit card numbers.

Researchers have found a data mining technique, which assists counter-fraud by using software, which looks for patterns of users who have repeated dealings with one another, and this possibly identifies those likely to commit fraud. The technique resulted from an analysis of one million transactions by 66,000 eBay users, which produced graphs called bipartite cores and these identify users interacting with unusual frequency.

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