

Program: Protecting Yourself Against Identity Theft and Fraud

Speaker: Greg Wright, Certified Fraud Examiner

Attendance: 129

Guests: Dan and Laura Saffen. Leon Rand, Paul Schoon, Doug Rose, Richard Cohen, Ed and Wanda Duchnowski, Renee Ratermann

Scribe: Malcolm Mallette

Editor: Ed Nitka

Greg Wright, Certified Fraud Examiner and Certified Financial Planner, provides identity theft prevention and remediation services. He gave an interesting talk about Identity theft and how to prevent it. He began his presentation with information about a local thief who hacked accounts of thousands of potential victims.

A theoretical example of a CPA firm was given whose electronic records were hacked. The thief got the personal information about the customers including their SSN, past tax returns, etc. The thief then had the option to sell the data on the dark web or use it himself to steal. The thief decided to lock the firm's records and charge the firm a ransom to release the records. The firm failed to make the payment, and their tax returns were not available to be filed, a nightmare to the firm's customers.

He said you should not use your e-mail address as the user name on accounts and should not use public WIFI. Do not put your birth date on social media.

Medical identity theft is also a problem. A crack mother used a false ID to obtain a birth certificate for her crack damaged baby. The baby then became the financial responsibility of the victim of the identity theft.

If you have blocked your credit reports with Equifax, Experion, and TransUnion, there is a fourth firm that deals with credit, INNOVIS, and you should also block your credit reports with them.

Here is his summary of preventive measures:

1. Find out if someone else is using your SSN
2. Get a credit/identity theft monitoring service
3. Use a VPN (not public Wi Fi) when out and about
4. Use a password manager except for your serious money account(s)
5. Make local or online backups –ransomware protection
6. For large money accounts, do not use a password manager, as they can be invaded
7. Lock your Social Security Account Number
8. Freeze your credit at all 4 agencies
9. Request copies of your Medical Insurance Bureau file

For those with additional questions or who wish to contact Greg Wright, a copy of his business card is provided below.



Greg Wright