



## August 2008 Hot Topics

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# Start With Trust<sup>SM</sup>

**1 UPS Virus** - The e-mail appears to be about a delivery from UPS, but if you open the attachment, your computer's hard drive could be destroyed. The attachment is a malicious computer virus that's infecting hard drives across the country. If you're concerned about a UPS delivery, go directly to the UPS website.

**2 Jury Duty Scam** - A caller who identifies himself as an officer of the court says you failed to report for jury duty and a warrant is out for your arrest. You never received a notice. To clear it up, the caller says he'll need some personal information for "verification purposes." Court officers never ask for confidential information over the phone. They generally correspond with prospective jurors via mail.

**3 Vote Scam** - Consumers across the country are receiving phone calls and e-mails from someone claiming to represent their local election board or a civic group. Recipients are asked to provide personal information to confirm their eligibility to vote. Legit organizations that conduct voter registration either contact you in person or provide you a form that you fill out yourself. They won't ask for financial information!

**4 FBI vs. Facebook Storm Worm Virus** - The e-mail directs the recipient to click on a link to view an article about the FBI and Facebook. Once the user clicks the link, malware is downloaded to the computer and causes it to become infected and become part of the Storm Worm botnet. Botnets are typically set up to facilitate criminal activity such as spam e-mail, id theft, and spreading malware.

**5 Millennium Empire** is racking up hundreds of complaints with BBB - some locally. The company sells a variety of merchandise using several website names like KingofSwords.com, Kingofponds.com, and EmpirePets.com. On average, each person that has complained about the company has lost \$100. A KY resident says she ordered an item and never received it. Six months later, she still hasn't received a refund.

**6 Fake Fannie Mae & Freddie Mac Lottery** - The letter states the lottery is "organized by all crediting lending partners to give people who lost a home a chance to buy another one. The F & F Equity Draw has \$50 billion to give away, and you have emerged a winner..of \$5 million." When our BBB Vice President called F & F, he was told to wire \$850 via Western Union to Las Vegas to claim his money. Of course, the wired money will be gone, and the "winner" gets absolutely nothing!

**7 Scam artist poses as BBB** - Consumers across the country are getting calls from a "BBB staff person" with a Jamaican phone number. The number comes up on caller ID as 876-588-7235. There are no BBB's in Jamaica. The callers are asking for personal information. Hang up the phone!

**8 Better Business Online (BBO)** has absolutely nothing to do with the Better Business Bureau! The BBO site gives information advising consumers against most business opportunities and work-at-home offers, but then offers to sell a guide about work-at-home promotions. The BBO has even swiped the BBB logo! BBB attorneys have contacted this company.

**9** BBB is receiving a rash of complaints against **CashKrazy.com**. The work-at-home company asks you to enter information about yourself and answer surveys. Once completed you are supposed to be paid, but Complainants allege they have not received payment. Use caution when it comes to work-at-home offers and always check them out first with BBB.

**10 Advanced Vending** has an unsatisfactory record with BBB. Complainants say they responded to a classified ad regarding a vending machine business opportunity. They were told to wire a 50% investment of \$4,000 to \$16,000 up-front and the other 50% when the machines are delivered. Complainants say they were told once the vending machines arrive, a locator service will do all the work to get them placed. However, they are later told that the company no longer has a locator in their area.

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