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DOLLAR LOSS FROM INTERNET FRAUD HITS ALL-TIME HIGH IN '07

RICHMOND, VA According to a report compiled by the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), consumers lost nearly 240 million dollars in 2007 as a result of scams perpetrated over the Internet. That's an increase of nearly 40 million dollars over the preceding year. Internet auction fraud was by far the most reported offense, comprising more than one-third of all complaints referred to law enforcement.

Other 'high activity' scams reported to IC3 during 2007 involved pets, checks, spam and online dating sites. The majority of perpetrators were male (75.8%) and half of them lived in one of the following states: California, Florida, New York, Texas, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Georgia.

The IC3 serves as a clearinghouse and repository of cyber crime complaints where private citizens and industry can submit claims and report suspicious activity.

To read the IC3 report in its entirety please visit: www.ic3.gov/media/annualreports.aspx.

About IC3

The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) is a partnership between the National White Collar Crime Center (a Bureau of Justice Assistance program) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). IC3 analyzes and refers all fraudulent activity identified on the Internet to the appropriate local, state or federal law enforcement agencies. IC3 provides analytical support for cyber crime investigations and prosecution. For more information, visit our Web site at www.ic3.gov.