



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ONLINE THIEVES HOPING TO BAG HOLIDAY SHOPPERS**

**RICHMOND, VA** Cyber Monday traditionally kicks off the online holiday shopping season. As an increasing number of e-retailers and brick and mortar stores ramp up cyber sales promotions, millions of consumers will be shopping online from home and their cubicles at work. At the same time, scores of cyber thieves will also be shopping -- for potential victims.

In some cases, they use cleverly-disguised Web sites to entice shoppers looking for bargains. Others create makeshift charities, hoping to tap into the groundswell of generosity that typically occurs during the holidays. In these and other scams, their ultimate goal is to rip-off unsuspecting online shoppers by getting access to personal information and credit card numbers that are traveling around the Internet.

Consumers can protect themselves by checking that their computer's security software is up-to-date before shopping, only purchasing items from certifiably secure Web sites, and being on the look out for promotional emails requesting personal information or promising special deals that could be part of a 'phishing' scam.

Contact NW3C for more information on how consumers can protect themselves.

**About NW3C**

Funded for over thirty years by the Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) is a leader in helping law enforcement combat economic and cybercrime. Visit our Web site: [www.nw3c.org](http://www.nw3c.org)