



## Jurisprudence Section – 2005

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### E3 Identity Theft: The Tools of the Trade

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The goal of this presentation is to present the forensic community an overview of recent developments in the crime of identity theft, including not only the tools and techniques used by criminals, but also those used by law enforcement officials in catching criminals.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by educating the listener as to the tools used by identity thieves so as to prevent one from becoming a victim of identity theft. In addition, the paper will educate the listener as to the techniques that can be used by the scientific community to aid in catching those who would commit identity theft.

This paper will present a discussion of the equipment and methods used by criminals in the commission of identity theft, as well as the methods used by law enforcement officials in preventing identity theft and catching those who do. In recent years, identity theft has become an increasing concern to citizens. Although identity theft is not a new crime, recent technological advances have given would-be criminals a variety of new tools to use. The increased use of computers and the Internet have created new methods for criminals to access personal information without the same risk of being personally identified. In response, several state and federal law enforcement agencies have stepped up enforcement efforts, including developing methods to respond to these new techniques, including not only new technological advances, but also the creation new legislation and a national database to track identity theft. In addition, state legislatures, as well as the U.S. Congress, have implemented a variety of new laws designed to stop the continued growth of identity theft, as well as to protect victims.

The purpose of this paper is to educate the listener as to the advances made by both criminals and law enforcement. The paper will present case examples, discuss the specific equipment used, recent legislation passed, and give general tips for the prevention of identity theft. The listener will leave the presentation with an understanding of developments in the field of identity theft and the techniques that can be used to prevent future victims.

The impact of this paper on forensic sciences and / or humanity will be to educate the listener as to the tools used by identity thieves so as to prevent one from becoming a victim of identity theft. In addition, the paper will educate the listener as to the techniques that can be used by the scientific community to aid in catching those who would commit identity theft.

**Identity Theft, Law Enforcement, Legislation**