

# FRAUD ALERT!

Mid-July 2007

## FTC Warns Consumers About Bogus E-Mail That Claims to Be From Agency

### Attachment Unleashes Malicious Spyware Onto Consumers' Computers

Consumers, including corporate and banking executives, appear to be targets of a bogus e-mail supposedly sent by the Federal Trade Commission but actually sent by third parties hoping to install spyware on computers. The bogus e-mail poses as an acknowledgment of a complaint filed by the recipient, and includes an attachment. Consumers who open the attachment to this e-mail unleash malicious spyware onto their computer. The agency warns consumers who get this e-mail that purports to be from the FTC:

- Don't open the attachment.
- Delete the e-mail.
- Empty the deleted items folder.

The hoax e-mail is personalized, and contains the name of the recipient and their business. The bogus message explains how the complaint will be used, who will have access to it and states, "Attached you will find a copy of your complaint. Please print a hard copy of the complaint for your records in the upcoming investigation." Opening the attachment downloads the malicious spyware.

Consumers can learn more about protecting themselves from malicious spyware and bogus e-mails at OnGuardOnline.gov, a Web site created by the FTC in partnership with other federal agencies and the technology industry to help consumers stay safe online.

The FTC works for the consumer to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices in the marketplace and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop, and avoid them. To file a complaint or to get free information on any of 150 consumer topics, call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357), or use the complaint form at <http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/complaint.shtm>.

**For more information or to report a scam- contact any one of the Task Force members:**

**BUCKS COUNTY CRIMES AGAINST OLDER ADULTS TASK FORCE-**  
**FIGHTING ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND EXPLOITATION OF OLDER ADULTS IN BUCKS COUNTY**  
**WWW.CRIMESAGAINSTOLDERADULTSBUCKS.ORG**      **1-800-490-8505**

**Bucks County District Attorney's Office**  
215-348-6344

**Bucks County Consumer Protection**  
215-348-6060

**Bucks County Register of Wills**  
215-348-6265

**Bucks County Area Agency on Aging**  
215-348-0510

**Network of Victim Assistance**  
1-800-675-6900

**Bucks County Coroner**  
215-348-3852