

Computer-related crime prosecuted by prosecutors' offices

Cybercrime has new importance given the increased consumer and business use of the Internet. With cybercrime a priority on several levels, the 2001 NSP asked prosecutors' offices about the kinds of computer-related cases they may have handled.

Over the 12 months before the survey, 42% of the prosecutors' offices reported prosecuting computer-related crimes under their State's computer statutes. Computer-related crimes (felony or misdemeanor) were

prosecuted by 97% of full-time large offices, 73% of full-time medium offices, 44% of full-time small offices, and 17% of part-time offices.

Three in ten offices nationwide reported prosecuting computer-related crimes dealing with the transmittal of child pornography. A quarter of all offices prosecuted credit card fraud (27%) and bank card fraud (22%). Computer sabotage was prosecuted by 5% of the offices and theft of intellectual property by 3%.

Type of computer crime prosecuted	All offices	Percent of prosecutors' offices			Part-time
		Full-time offices (population served)			
		Large (1,000,000 or more)	Medium (250,000 to 999,999)	Small (under 250,000)	
Any computer-related crime	41.5%	97.0%	72.9%	44.2%	16.8%
Credit card fraud	27.4	93.5	61.2	28.2	7.4
Bank card fraud ^a	22.3	83.3	50.9	22.6	6.9
Computer forgery ^b	13.3	63.0	39.2	12.8	2.7
Computer sabotage ^c	4.6	53.6	14.4	3.8	0.5
Unauthorized access to computer ^d	9.6	60.7	28.8	8.8	2.3
Unauthorized copying or distribution of computer programs ^e	2.7	53.8	9.0	1.8	0.2
Cyberstalking ^f	16.3	76.7	47.8	15.1	4.5
Theft of intellectual property	3.2	40.7	13.4	2.3	0.5
Transmitting child pornography	30.0	87.1	67.1	30.4	10.8
Identity theft	18.2	80.0	51.9	17.2	4.5

Note: Data on prosecution of any computer related crime under their State's computer statutes were available for 2,151 prosecutors' offices. Data were available on credit card fraud for 1,995 prosecutors' offices, bank card fraud 1,956 offices, forgery 1,894 offices, sabotage 1,853 offices, unauthorized access to computer system 1,878 offices, unauthorized copying or distribution of computer programs 1,883 offices, cyberstalking 1,927 offices, theft of intellectual property 1,839 offices, transmitting child pornography 2,029 offices, and identity theft 1,927 offices.

^aATM or debit.

^bAlteration of computerized documents.

^cTo hinder the normal function of a computer system through the introduction of worms, viruses, or logic bombs.

^dHacking.

^eSoftware copyright infringement.

^fThe activity of users sending harassing or threatening e-mail to other users.