

# Media Release



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## **AHTCC reminds online bankers to be cautious following WA arrest**

A recent increase in internet related crime has prompted the Australian High Tech Crime Centre to remind internet users to take all the steps they can to protect their identity while using the internet.

The AHTCC congratulates the Western Australia Police Computer Crime Squad following an investigation which resulted in the arrest yesterday of a 24-year-old man allegedly connected with fraudulent online banking transfers.

Western Australia Police issued a warning to computer users not to enter personal details when accessing public computers such as those in internet cafes, which the AHTCC endorses.

Director of the AHTCC, Federal Agent Kevin Zuccato said "The arrest in Perth is a timely reminder for people to be aware that cyber criminals are constantly attempting to gain access to personal information and use it illegally."

"These criminals are innovative in their approach and constantly change their techniques in an attempt to trick users into parting with personal information."

"In recent weeks there have been a number of cyber attacks in Australia including one instance where a scam instant message directed users to a false website which contained a keylogger program, used by criminals to steal sensitive personal information.

"The AHTCC continues to work closely with State and Territory police services and both the private and public sector to combat this type of crime. The Centre is staffed by personnel from all State and Territory police services as well as a number of banks in order to fight high tech crime.

To prevent themselves from falling victim to these offences, individuals should:

- Not using publicly available Internet terminals to access Internet-banking or e-commerce sites
- If you are using a public internet terminal, avoid imputing sensitive personal data;
- Have up-to-date anti-virus and firewall software on their computers;
- Avoid opening unsolicited emails even if they purport to be from a trusted source;
- Never use links in an email to access a banking or e-commerce websites - always type the address in the browser or save to favorites;
- Not run software unless they are sure of its origin and function;
- Stay abreast of security advisories and software updates: and
- Ensure that you regularly update your computer with all patches provided for operating systems.

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