

October 9, 2008

## Special Alert from the FDIC

Fraudulent E-mails Claim to Be From the FDIC

*E-mails fraudulently claiming to be from the FDIC are attempting to trick recipients into installing unknown software on personal computers. These e-mails contain the subject line: "Funds wired into your account are stolen."*

The FDIC is aware of e-mails appearing to be sent from the FDIC that ask recipients to open and review an attached file. Currently, the subject line of the e-mail states: "Funds wired into your account are stolen." The e-mail is fraudulent and was not sent by the FDIC.

The fraudulent e-mail tells the recipient that proceeds from identity theft crimes have been wire-transferred into their bank account. The e-mail then directs the recipient to open and review an attached copy of their bank account statement and to contact their bank account managers.

The attached file is actually an executable file containing malicious code or software. Recipients should consider the attached file as a malicious attempt to collect online banking credentials or other personal and confidential information that could be used to gain unauthorized access to on-line banking services or perpetrate identity theft and other criminal activities.

Recipients of the fraudulent e-mail should not reply and should not attempt to open the attached file. According to reports received by the FDIC, many antivirus software programs have been detecting and removing the malicious attachment before the e-mail is delivered. However, if a recipient does open the attachment, the FDIC recommends updating anti-virus software patches and performing a complete scan of the computer and network, if applicable. If a computer becomes infected and the user encounters difficulties removing the malicious code, users should contact their anti-virus software vendor. The FDIC highly recommends using anti-virus software.

For additional information about safe online banking and avoiding online scams, visit <http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/guard/>.

For your reference, FDIC Special Alerts may be accessed from the FDIC's Web site at [www.fdic.gov/news/news/SpecialAlert/2008/index.html](http://www.fdic.gov/news/news/SpecialAlert/2008/index.html). To learn how to automatically receive FDIC Special Alerts through e-mail, please visit [www.fdic.gov/about/subscriptions/index.html](http://www.fdic.gov/about/subscriptions/index.html).

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Paper copies of FDIC Special Alerts may be obtained through the FDIC's Public Information Center, 1-877-275-3342 or 703-562-2200).

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