

WELCOME TO THE GEMINI IBD® INFOGRAPHICS NEWSLETTER

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SYNTHETIC ID FRAUD

While so far this year, everybody's prime concern is that of Ransomware, and what kind of other Cyberattacks are going to come out of Russia given the current situation in Ukraine, there is yet another threat variant out there is lurking that not has not made the limelight, but soon will: It is called Synthetic ID Fraud.

WHAT IS SYNTHETIC ID FRAUD?

Synthetic Identity Fraud is a new form of identity theft that has been gaining traction in recent years. It is a type of fraud that uses false information to create a new identity, which is then used for the purposes of financial gain.

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It is typically based on stolen information that is commonly referred to as PII, or personally identifiable information. This information is used to create an alternative identity, or make one up entirely that is used for negative actions.



HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM ID THEFT?

There are many ways that synthetic identity theft is unique from other types of information theft. What you will often notice is that thieves want to easily scale their operation to gain more from each act.

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Plus, they want to be able to evade capture as long as possible. These are common among SIF instances, and often leave many victims in their wake. You will also typically notice that SIF is different from identity theft in that synthetic identity fraud is when someone uses a fake name to open up a new bank account or credit card account. Identity theft is when someone steals your personal information and opens up accounts using your name.



HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SYNTHETIC ID FRAUD?

The best way to protect yourself from synthetic identity fraud is to make sure that you do not give out any of your personal information over the internet unless you are absolutely sure about who you are giving it to. You should also never give out your social security number over the internet unless you are absolutely sure about who you are giving it to as well. You should also make sure that you monitor your credit report on a regular basis so that if anything suspicious pops up on there, you will know about it right away and can take care of it immediately before any damage gets done to your finances or credit score in general.



HOW IS SYNTHETIC ID FRAUD PERPETRATED?

There are three main ways that synthetic identity fraud is perpetrated.

1. Create a fake ID using false information. This can be done by using a fake birth certificate, or even a fake driver's license.
2. Creating a new credit card account using false information. This can be done by buying a pre-paid credit card and then registering it under their fake name, or buying an old credit card account that has been closed and then reopening it under their name.
3. Creating an entirely new bank account using false information. This can be done by going into the bank branch in person and opening up the account there, or they could do it online through the bank's website as well.



THE KEY INGREDIENT FOR MAKING THE SIF VARIANT

The key ingredients for the making of a synthetic identity fraud variant are the following:

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1. Identify a potential victim
2. Obtain personal information about the victim
3. Create a new identity for the victim
4. Use the new identity to open up a new bank account or credit card account

