

SECURITY, SCAM & TROJAN ALERTS

1. Hotel Robbery

Unknown offenders gained entry to the ballroom of the Majestic Hotel and removed property from within. There was no sign of forced entry. Please make sure that valuable property is locked away out of sight when not in use and external doors are kept locked overnight. A reminder that thieves look for portable, high value easily saleable goods, i.e. laptops, projectors, etc. One way to protect items is to mark them with indelible identification. Please consider your general security and reduce the opportunities.

2. Staff Handbags

There has been a recent theft in the town centre where the offender has removed an unattended handbag from the check out area of a charity shop. Please remind your staff and ask customers not to leave bags unattended unless they are in lockable storage. Public access areas and staff room security should be assessed and monitored on a regular basis.

3. Stolen Crates and Barrels

There has been a rise in the number of crates of lager being stolen from off licenses. Please assess your positioning of these products and your general security procedures. Call 999 if a crime is in progress or report a non-emergency on 0845 60 60 247.

4. You have won a Cruise!

Con merchants are making phone calls to unsuspecting residents indicating that they have won a cruise and requesting bank details over the phone. All banks will confirm that they never request full banking details over the telephone and that no one should provide these details. If you have any doubts or concerns please ring North Yorkshire Police 0845 60 60 247 or Trading Standards 08454 040506.

5. Trojan Internet Blackmailing

A new Trojan, dubbed Pgpocoder, encrypts users' PCs when it attacks, forcing them to pay a ransom to the hackers responsible if they want the information held on their machines unlocked. The attack is launched when a user visits a malicious website and exploits a flaw in Microsoft's IE browser. The Trojan sends infected users a ransom note requesting \$200 (£108) to unlock their machine. Anti-virus firms are urging users to download Microsoft's patch immediately.

Anti-virus firm McAfee has details about Pgpocoder at: http://vil.nai.com/vil/content/v_133901.htm

6. Banking Trojan

Barclays and Bank of Scotland are among the banks affected by a new phishing scam in which a Trojan virus redirects users to fake versions of their sites. Attacks by the Trojan have escalated dramatically from 4,000 to over 3 million per month. The Trojan can be downloaded onto users' machines without their knowledge and is activated when they try to access the legitimate bank sites. Ensure your anti-virus and firewall software is up-to-date and that you have all the latest security patches installed.

Microsoft's latest security update is at: <http://www.microsoft.com/security>