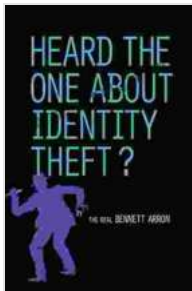


# Heard The One About Identity Theft? Protecting Yourself in a Digital World

Identity theft is a serious crime that can have devastating consequences. In 2021, there were over 1.4 million reports of identity theft in the United States, with losses totaling over \$56 billion. Identity thieves can use your personal information to open new credit accounts, make fraudulent Free Downloads, or even file taxes in your name. This can damage your credit, ruin your reputation, and cost you thousands of dollars.



## HEARD THE ONE ABOUT IDENTITY THEFT? by Bennett Arron

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 409 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 129 pages  
Lending : Enabled



There are a number of things you can do to protect yourself from identity theft, including:

- **Be careful about what information you share online.** Never share your Social Security number, credit card number, or other sensitive information with anyone you don't know and trust.

- **Use strong passwords and change them regularly.** Your passwords should be at least 12 characters long and include a mix of upper and lower case letters, numbers, and symbols.
- **Be careful about clicking on links in emails or text messages.** Phishing scams are a common way for identity thieves to trick you into giving up your personal information. If you're not sure whether an email or text message is legitimate, don't click on any links.
- **Shred any documents that contain your personal information before you throw them away.** This includes credit card statements, bank statements, and medical records.
- **Monitor your credit reports regularly.** You can get a free copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus once per year. Review your credit reports carefully for any unauthorized activity.

If you become a victim of identity theft, it's important to act quickly. You should:

- **Contact the fraud department of your bank or credit card company.** Report the identity theft and ask them to freeze your accounts.
- **File a police report.** This will create a record of the identity theft and help you with your insurance claim.
- **Contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).** The FTC can help you create an identity theft report and provide you with information on how to protect yourself from future identity theft.

Identity theft is a serious crime, but it can be prevented. By following these tips, you can protect yourself from identity theft and keep your personal information safe.

### Relevant long descriptive keyword for `alt` attribute:

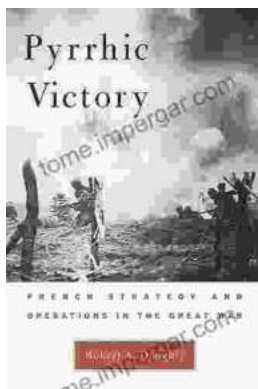
\* Identity theft protection tips \* How to protect yourself from identity theft \* What to do if you become a victim of identity theft \* Identity theft prevention \* Online security \* Data protection



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