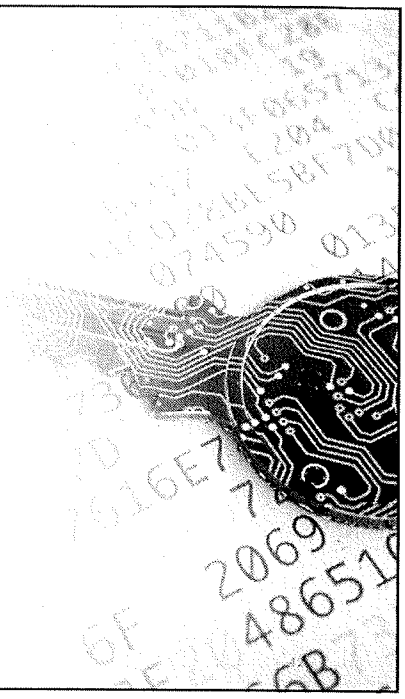
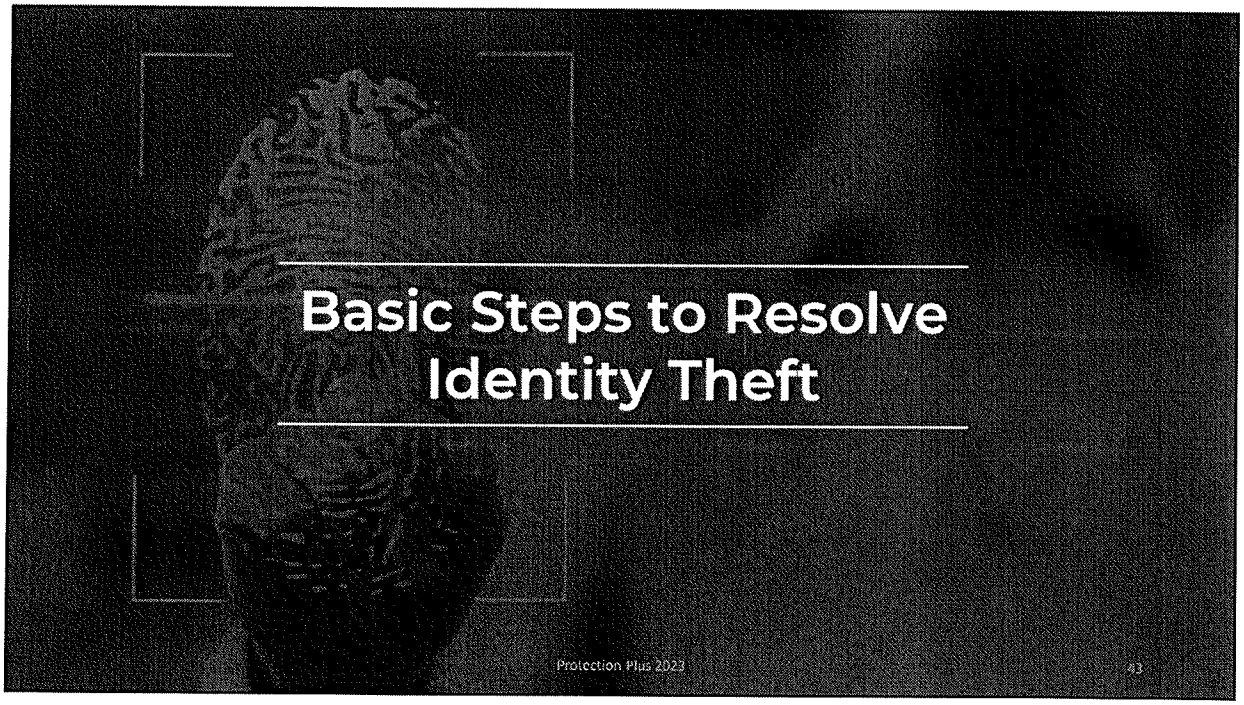
8. Encrypt Sensitive Data

Encrypt sensitive data and protect it with a password. People who keep financial records, tax returns, or any personal information on their computers should protect this data. Users should also back up important data to an external source. When disposing of a computer, phone, or tablet, people should make sure they wipe the hard drive of all information before trashing it.





Basic Steps to Resolve Identity Theft

If a professional ID Theft Restoration Specialists is not an option, you should start with the basics.

Step 1

Call the companies where you know the fraud occurred. Ask them to close or freeze your accounts and change your logins, passwords, and PINS for those accounts.

Step 2

Place a fraud alert with Experian, TransUnion, and Equifax and request a free copy of your credit reports from all three credit bureaus. Also, work with the credit bureaus to remove any fraudulent charges from your report.

Basic Steps to Resolve Identity Theft

Step 3

Report the identity theft to the FTC and provide as many details as possible.

- Based on the information you provide the FTC will create your Identity Theft Report and recovery plan.
- The Identity Theft Report proves to businesses that someone stole your identity and guarantees you certain rights.

Step 4

File an Identity Theft report with your local police and be sure to provide them with a copy of your FTC report. Keep a copy of the police report for your records.

Basic Steps to Resolve Identity Theft

Step 5

Close any new accounts that may have been opened in your name.

- You will need the FTC report to close these accounts.
- Request the business to send you a letter confirming that the fraudulent account isn't yours, that you aren't liable for any charges, and that they have removed it from your credit report.

Step 6

Consider adding an extended fraud alert or credit freeze to your credit reports.

Step 7

Review your credit reports often.

Step 8

Visit identitytheft.gov for helpful information.

What we learned today...

There are many forms of identity theft, and thieves have an endless array of tools to fraudulently take possession of a victim's identity.

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Individual behaviors play a critical role in mitigating exposure to identity.

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Tax professionals must be vigilant in their efforts to protect their client data.