



For Immediate Release: June 19, 2015

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HPD Investigates Credit Card “Skimming” Devices

On June 9, 2015 the Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) became aware of multiple credit card skimming devices attached to fuel pumps at a gas station located in the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia. The card skimmers have been removed and are being forensically processed in an attempt to acquire relevant stored data. Local businesses have taken efforts to check other gas pumps and no other devices have been located as of June 19, 2015.

A credit card skimmer is a device that is attached to a credit card reader such as one at a gas pump or ATM. There are a number of different types of card skimmers, but one thing they all have in common is that they are designed to remain hidden from common sight and can remain undetected for extended periods of time.

Offenders of credit card skimming schemes can easily place a skimmer device at a gas pump in a matter of minutes, and then retrieve the collected data via wireless technology such as Bluetooth. Once the data is collected, credit card information can be sold to the highest bidders or the original offender can copy the data onto fake credit cards to make fraudulent purchases.

Credit card holders should pay attention to their financial accounts and statements and be vigilant for any unusual activity. Any suspicious activity should be reported to law enforcement immediately. It is helpful to law enforcement if potential victims of fraudulent activity can provide specific details about fraudulent purchases such as the date and time of the fraudulent purchase as well as the specific location any such transaction. Unusual activity should also be reported to respective banking institution in order to cancel any pending or future fraudulent purchases.

Brian Krebs, a computer security expert, provides helpful information regarding steps that can be taken in order to reduce the chance of becoming a victim of credit card fraud related to card skimmers. Krebs' articles can be viewed at his website <http://krebsonsecurity.com/all-about-skimmers/>. Visit <http://abcnews.go.com/Nightline/video/credit-card-skimmers-20102140> to view an ABC News exposé

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with the Arizona Department of Weights and Measures related to credit card skimmers and efforts from law enforcement to crack down on these crimes.

HPD encourages all business with credit card scanning machines to regularly inspect their machines and the cables that connect to them to ensure that they have not been altered. Individuals with any information on the credit card skimmers or other pertinent information are encouraged to contact the Criminal Investigations Division of HPD at 540-437-2640. Callers can provide anonymous tips at CrimeSolvers: 540-574-5050 or text "HPD" plus the tip to CRIMES (274637).