

Criminals continue to profit from defrauding businesses and consumers.

The counterfeiting of money remains a serious problem for advanced economies, while electronic means of payment offer criminals new opportunities to commit fraud.

The growth of internet banking and of electronic means of payment has been a double-edged sword for consumers and businesses. While it has lessened the dependence on physical cash, it has also provided criminals with new opportunities to commit fraud.

FORGING MONEY

While [currency forgery](#) is expected to diminish over time as cash becomes less relevant in the digital age, banknotes will not be replaced entirely by electronic means of payment.

As a result, criminals will continue to forge banknotes. The raw materials used for currency counterfeiting will become even more widely available, particularly on the darknet, the hidden internet that exists beneath the “surface web”.

As the worldwide contact point for combating the [counterfeiting of the euro](#), Europol is involved in all major currency forgery investigations in the EU. The agency coordinates joint investigation teams and provides financial and forensic support, as well as on-the-spot assistance, to law enforcement partners in the EU.

PAYMENT FRAUD

Fighting payment fraud – in particular that involving [credit and debit cards](#) – is one of the three mandates of Europol's [European Cybercrime Centre \(EC3\)](#). Through its [Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce \(J-CAT\)](#), it has supported several high-profile cybercrime operations and investigations, such as [Operation Imperium](#), which targeted an organised crime network active in payment fraud.

In its 2016 Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment (IOCTA), Europol recommended that EU law enforcement focus on the following operational areas:

- › ATM malware and skimming devices
- › E-commerce fraud with a focus on the transport (airlines), retail and accommodation sectors.
- › The acquisition and trading of compromised financial data
- › and credentials:

Europol has also stepped up activity against [CEO fraud cases](#) in Europe. In these cases, fraudsters posing as the CEO or a member of the senior management team in a company trick an employee at the company into wiring funds to them.

NUMBER OF ITEMS FOUND: 211

SEARCH



TYPE

Article/Story, Event, How-To Guide, Landing Page, Multimedia, News/Press Release, Operation, Page, Publication/Document

TARGET GROUP

SEARCH

CLEAR ALL

10
Feb
2021

TEN HACKERS ARRESTED FOR STRING OF SIM-SWAPPING ATTACKS AGAINST CELEBRITIES

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

03
Feb
2021

105 ARRESTED FOR STEALING OVER €12 MILLION FROM US-BASED BANKS

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

01
Feb
2021

SUN, SEA AND SCAMS: SIX ARRESTS FOR FORGING MONEY AND DOCUMENTS IN BULGARIA

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

28
Jan
2021

HALF A MILLION IN FAKE EUROS SEIZED IN ROMANIA

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

02
Dec
2020

422 ARRESTED AND 4 031 MONEY MULES IDENTIFIED IN GLOBAL CRACKDOWN ON MONEY LAUNDERING

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

26
Nov
2020

OFFICERS FOIL FRAUDSTERS FROM STEALING €40 MILLION IN PAYMENT CARD SCAM

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

09
Nov
2020

HERE'S HOW TO OUTSMART CRIMINALS ABUSING THE ONLINE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

05
Oct
2020

COVID-19 SPARKS UPWARD TREND IN CYBERCRIME

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

05
Oct
2020

INTERNET ORGANISED CRIME THREAT ASSESSMENT (IOCTA) 2020

PUBLICATION/DOCUMENT

29
Sep
2020

HOOK, LINE AND SINKER: CYBERCRIME NETWORK PHISHING BANK CREDENTIALS ARRESTED IN ROMANIA

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

06
Aug
2020

EURO COUNTERFEIT RING THAT CIRCULATED FAKE BANKNOTES FROM ITALY TO SPAIN BUSTED

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

17
Jul
2020

POSSIBLY LARGEST EVER BUST OF BANKNOTE COUNTERFEITERS IN THE HISTORY OF THE EURO

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

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