



BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CYBER CRIMES TASK FORCE

2121 County Drive; Columbia, Missouri 65202
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Web Site: WWW.BCSDCYBERCRIMES.COM

Media Release

Primary Agencies:

Boone County Sheriff's Dept.
Boone County Prosecuting
Attorney's Office
University of Missouri Police
Department
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Associate Agencies:

Ashland Police Department
Auxvasse Police Department
Boonville Police Department
Centralia Police Department
Columbia Police Department
Fayette Police Department
Fulton Police Department
Hallsville Police Department
Jefferson City Police
Department
Holt's Summit Police Dept.
Mexico Department of Public
Safety
Moberly Police Department
Sturgeon Police Department
Audrain County Sheriff's Office
Cole County Sheriff's
Department
Cooper County Sheriff's
Department
Callaway County Sheriff's
Department
Howard County Sheriff's
Department
Randolph County Sheriff's
Department

Incident: Computer Locked by FBI Scam

Details:

Over this summer numerous Internet users across Missouri have fallen victim to an Internet scam. In this relatively new scam a screen will appear on the victim's computer advising the computer has been locked by the Federal Bureau of Investigation due to the downloading of illegal files. The computer is indeed locked which prohibits the user from deleting or even minimizing this page.

The screen gives the victim instructions on how to unlock the computer which involves the victim paying a \$200 fine. The screen provides instructions on how to pay this fine by obtaining a "MoneyPak" card from a variety of outlets and then entering the card number into the screen. In reality the money is actually transferred to the perpetrators of this scam through prepaid debit cards.

Often if the user who receives this screen will immediately power their computer off by pulling the power sources such as the power cord and or battery in the case of laptops, wait a few minutes, then restart the computer, the computer will be unlocked. Always use a good anti-virus and anti-malware programs. Backing up important files is always a good idea.

The Boone County Sheriff's Department Cyber Crimes Task Force urges all Internet users to be cautious of any popup screen on their computer as well as any non solicited contact. For additional information on Internet scams, ID theft, and other information see the Task Force web site at www.bcsdcybercrimes.com.

A copy of the most common screen currently used is attached to this release.

The Boone County Sheriff's Department Cyber Crimes Task Force is comprised of investigators from the Boone County Sheriff's Department, the University of Missouri Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

This project is supported by funding made available through the federal Recovery Act –Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program administered by the U.S. Dept. of Justice & Mo. Dept of Public Safety.

The Boone County Sheriff's Department Cyber Crimes Task Force is part of the Missouri Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force is and supported by funding made available through MO ICAC from the US Department of Justice-Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

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