


```
pkzip -exs test.zip c:\work\*.*
```

You don't HAVE to use the extra compression feature, but it's there for the taking and it CERTAINLY would be appreciated by those who download your file. (By the way, you unzip regular and extra-compressed zip files in precisely the same manner.)

Sysops on "fine-line" BBS's, which do not permit posting of passwords and/or codes, will blatantly not allow unencrypted zip files containing such data to be uploaded and, as it IS their board, their requests must be respected. Clearly these Sysops do not wish to become entangled with the law and, simply put, they would be indirectly liable for having such files uploaded and available for download on their BBS. However, here is the whole catch: were an ENCRYPTED zip file to be uploaded, would the Sysop be responsible for knowing its contents? NO WAY!

Get Sysop's Permission!

Be sure to get on a PRIVATE chat with the Sysop and tell him what you plan on doing; it's not nice to do it without asking permission first, plus chances are you won't be able to get any further without his permission anyway. The Sysop will generally allow you to upload encrypted files because, as said above, he is not legally liable for the contents. Additionally, it is IMPOSSIBLE to decipher the contents of an encrypted zip file without knowing the "key" (more on that later, be patient!) Since the Sysop will NOT have the key (just the file), he would have no way of knowing what the contents of the encrypted zip file was; thus, he is legally AND morally FREE AND CLEAR. But, again ... you must STILL get his permission first. So, do so.

Once you have obtained the Sysop's consent, upload the encrypted file onto his BBS. You're half-way home since the data is now available for modem download, even if it is in encrypted form. Now, all that's left is figuring out how only YOU and YOUR SEATTLE FRIEND can decrypt that file, without ANYONE else being able to. Relax, that's a piece of cake, my fellow "SCAM!"mers ...

Making the Key

When you encrypt the file using the command line set forth above, the PKzip program will prompt you for a key ("Password"). This key can be anything you want it to be; any combination of letters, numbers, symbols, etc. Note that the key IS case sensitive; thus, 161abb and 161aBb are NOT the same keys. When encrypting a file using PKZIP encryption techniques, I strongly suggest using ONLY keys that are TEN CHARACTERS LONG, composed of one or more of a combination of any of the following:

```
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
1234567890!@#%&^*()-+=\/?<>.,:;>[]{}
```

Such encryption is HACK-PROOF. Decrypting a PKZIP file with a case-sensitive, 10-character encryption key of the type set forth above, where the key is not known, would require over 2,000,000 CENTURIES on a 486 (this estimate was given by PKWare, the makers of PKZIP, so I really don't think you have much to worry about!) Note that the fewer characters in your key, the less time it will take for the key to be hacked; so, use TEN-CHARACTER KEYS! Note also that you MAY use keys that contain ANSI symbols not found on the ordinary keyboard, but WHY DO THIS? It's generally a pain in the ass, and it is MUCH easier to unlock encrypted files when keys are composed of the traditional choices set forth above. Again, with TEN-CHARACTER KEYS, do NOT worry about anyone hacking it; it WON'T HAPPEN!

*** "SCAM!" SUGGESTION: ***

Please do NOT use keys that form words; e.g. the key "UNZIP123" is TERRIBLE to use; rather, the key 5tY@@pxA\ would be EXCELLENT!

*** "SCAM!" SUGGESTION: ***

Keep a hidden written copy of the key for yourself because, if you lose it, believe me you'll NEVER gain access to the file again for as long as you live ... and neither will your great-grandchildren!

Depositing the Key

Since the only way to decrypt the file is with the key, and since up to this point the only one with the key is you, it is now necessary to get this key to your friend in Seattle so that he can call the BBS on which you uploaded the encrypted file, download the file, and decrypt it with the key. To get the key to your friend, do the following:

While in chat mode with your friend in Seattle, arbitrarily choose a SECOND BBS that both of you call. The beauty here is that this second BBS may be a conservative BBS that only has shareware stuff, games, etc. -- a BBS that would NEVER be suspected for transmitting illegal data! Be sure that this second BBS, however, has a PRIVATE message base. Merely tell your friend in Seattle that you will leave him a private message on this second BBS; the only thing is, the message IS the key!!! What could be easier?

Telling the Sysop of the Second BBS

It's up to you whether you want to let the Sysop of the second BBS know what you're up to. Personally, I would not suggest it. Firstly, Sysops of BBS's that have shareware and games generally don't want ANYTHING to do with such activities, and would not permit such messages to be posted even if they were private messages. Secondly, here is a way to post the "key" message without it looking like a key:

For example, say the key to the decrypted file was:

Idtr2t@tst

Instead of posting a private message stating merely "Idtr2t@tst", which would really look VERY conspicuous (!!), why not try the following instead:

"It's difficult to read 2 things @ the same time."

Have you caught on yet? The FIRST letter in each word of the message is a character in the key!:

"It's difficult to read 2 things @ the same time."
^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ = Idtr2t@tst

Thus, the message LOOKS legit; the Sysop of the second BBS will THINK it's legit; but in reality, IT'S THE KEY!! Who would ever dream it?!!

Summary

The Sysop of the BBS on which you uploaded the encrypted file will not be legally liable for anything because he has no possible way of knowing what

the contents of the encrypted file could be, because he does not have the key to decrypt it. Other people can download the file, but it will be useless to them without the key. Hacking the key, if it is 10 characters long, is futile.

The Sysop of the second BBS, on which the key is posted in a private message base, will not be legally liable for anything because the key itself, even if written directly, has no meaning. It is clearly not unlawful for anyone to post any combination of characters, lacking meaning, onto a message base. Especially if the message were to be transferred into a simple sentence, as in the technique described above, the Sysop would suffer no legal consequence.

Thus you have now seen the procedure for transferring sensitive data from your modem to another's modem, without permitting anyone else to access the file.

*** SCAM! SUGGESTION ***

This technique works great when transferring registered software, too. Use the exact same methodology described above; however, instead of the encrypted zip file containing passwords, codes or other data, it will actually contain an encrypted version of the program.

*** SCAM! SUGGESTION ***

For ARJ die-hards, it IS possible to use this same methodology using ARJ encryption (it's "G" on the command line for "<G>arble With Password"). However, note that I have no stats on how long it takes to hack an ARJ key and so, if you really want to use ARJ instead of ZIP, you're on your own!

"CBI SOCIAL SECURITY GUIDE"
by CBI and The Producer

July, 1993. -- CBI, as you probably know, is one of the country's largest credit reporting bureaus with nationwide dial-in capability just like TRW, Trans Union, etc. Providing the name, address, date of birth etc. is generally sufficient to get information on the individual's credit history. Many articles have been published regarding techniques to obtain accounts and passwords to this system, and I will not comment on their validity here. However, this article will merely focus on something called "DTEC", which I believe most readers are not aware of.

"DTEC" is an extremely powerful social security number search tool which resides on CBI systems. When properly accessed, it can provide a wealth of information on any individual solely based upon his or her social security number alone. The number is merely entered, and the information is spewed out. "DTEC" is only available to those CBI'ers who qualify and subscribe for the service. If you are fortunate enough to be able to access CBI -- and I'll discuss that next -- you may also gain "DTEC" capability too.

Obtaining a CBI Account from CBI

CBI has its New England base located in Connecticut. If you call about obtaining an account from them, you will be happy to learn that the charge is minimal (about \$50 per month); however, there are two catches:

First, you must have a legitimate reason for running credit reports. This is easily solved: just tell them you are a mortgage broker and, if they ask for a copy of your license, do the following: (1) go to some real mortgage broker's office, say you're interested in a loan and ask for a copy of their license; then (2) go to your nearest copy store, use the necessary White-Out and do the necessary other things to alter this document to fit your fictitious company. CBI will accept a COPY of your broker's license, so don't worry if you wind up printing your pseudo-license on regular 8 1/2 x 11, it won't matter.

As I said, this first part is easily solved. However, CBI's second requirement isn't so easy: they require an ON-SITE INSPECTION of your "office"!! Whoa! Many mortgage brokers DO operate out of their home, but of course you don't want to give your real name or address EVER! I guess the only way to get around this is to use one of those "office-for-a-day" places that rent office space, an imitation secretary, etc. This can, of course, be quite costly (\$100's).

*** SCAM! SUGGESTION ***

Should you actually wind up seeking a direct account from CBI (can't imagine why you'd want to, \$-wise), and should CBI ask to see an ORIGINAL copy of your mortgage broker's license, just tell them your attorney told you it's on file with the Secretary of State. They'll buy it.

You most likely won't want to get a direct account from CBI and will, instead, find yourself perusing amongst the potpourri of offerings on how to hack such accounts and passwords. Sorry, my friends, but so it goes.

More on "DTEC"

Anyway, once you've obtained an account and password somehow, you will want to know how to use "DTEC", which CBI won't tell you about! What I will now include are the complete, unedited texts of two (2) actual CBI user guides on "DTEC". NOTE: These guides were designed for CBI users in South Florida, however the principles are just as applicable here up north. As to references to "Dade" and "Broward" within the text, Dade and Broward are county names in South Florida; for example, Miami is in Dade County and Ft. Lauderdale is in Broward, if you didn't know. Now, here are the unedited "DTEC" texts, pieced together:

DTEC

- * Sign on as usual
- * After "PROCEED" appears, enter: DTEC-Social Security Number

Example: DTEC-123-45-6789

- * Output appears: either up 4 ID-only multiples
or a NO RECORD message.

EXAMPLES:

A. DTEC-123-45-6789
M1 of 2 NM-SMITH,DAN CA-123,MAIN,ST,ATL,GA
FA-321, N1AM, ST, ATL, GA SS-123-45-6789 AGE 40
M2 of 2 NM-BRYANT,JIM CA-789,GRAD,ST,MIA,FL
ES-TIRE MAN, TIRE CO. SS-123-45-6789 AGE 50
END OF REPORT CBI AND AFFILIATES - 2/2/87

B. DTEC-123-45-6789

 IS SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER A TYPO ERROR? IF NOT SOCIAL SECURITY
 NUMBER OUT OF RANGE

 M1 of 1 NM-RANGE, SOCIAL CA-111, NORTH, RD, ATL, GA
 SS-123-45-6789
 END OF REPORT CBI AND AFFILIATES - 2/2/87

 C. DTEC-123-45-6789

 IS SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER A TYPO ERROR? IF NOT SOCIAL SECURITY
 NUMBER REPORTED MISUSED

 M1 of 1 NM-SOCIAL, DON CA-2355, SINGLE, RD, ATL, GA
 SS-123-45-6789&
 M2 of 2 NM-SOCIAL, ALICE CA-166, PINES, DR, ATL, GA
 SS-123-45-6789&
 M3 of 3 NM-SOCIAL, DON CA-534, VALLEYS, RD, ATL, GA
 SS-123-45-6789&
 END OF REPORT CBI AND AFFILIATES - 2/2/87

MESSAGE	MEANING
IS SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER A TYPO ERROR? SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OUT OF RANGE	Social security number invalid because number in question has never been issued.
IS SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER A TYPO ERROR? SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER NUMBER REPORTED RETIRED	Social security number invalid because it was assigned to a person who is now deceased.
IS SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER A TYPO ERROR? SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER REPORTED MISUSED	The social security number in question has been reported misused.

 DTEC MB 2000 DIRECT OR COUPLER

1. HIT THE CREATE BUTTON
2. HIT "C" FOR CBI
3. TYPE IN 1 FOR ACCESS CODE - IF YOUR TERMINAL DOES NOT HAVE THIS GO ON TO NEXT STEP
4. TERMINAL WILL RESPOND REPORT TYPE
5. HIT "X" AND HIT RETURN
6. TERMINAL WILL RESPOND OTHER INFO-
7. TYPE DTEC-000-00-0000 (MAKE SURE TO PUT DASHES IN - DO NOT PUT A PERIOD AT THE END OF THE LINE)
8. HIT RETURN - TERMINAL WILL RESPOND TRANSACTION 2 - IF YOU HAVE MORE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS TO RUN - GO AHEAD AND DO SO - IF YOU ARE FINISHED
- *9. HIT HELP/QUIT BUTTON - TERMINAL WILL RESPOND ?
- *10. HIT XMIT BUTTON - TERMINAL WILL RESPOND - TRANSMIT ALL REQUESTS
- *11. HIT "N" FOR NO - TERMINAL WILL RESPOND (C)BI (T)RW ETC. ...
12. HIT "C" FOR CBI - TERMINAL WILL RESPOND WITH USERS INITIALS
- **13. TYPE IN YOUR INITIALS AND HIT RETURN - TERMINAL WILL RESPOND TRANSMITTING CBI PHONE NUMBER
14. TYPE IN PHONE NUMBER FOR CBI 937-0232 OR 739-7600 BROWARD (IF YOU ARE USING AN OUTSIDE LINE YOU MAY NEED TO TYPE IN 9D BEFORE THE NUMBER)
15. HIT RETURN
16. TERMINAL WILL RESPOND CONNECTED AND AUTOMATICALLY SIGN YOU ON AND GIVE YOU THE NAME, ADDRESS AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF YOUR SUBJECT

*OMIT STEP 9, STEP 10 AND STEP 11 IF YOU HAVE A CBI ONLY MB 2000
**IF YOU ARE USING A COUPLER AT THIS TIME YOU WILL DIAL CBI - 937-0232
DADE OR 736-7600 BROWARD PUT PHONE ON THE COUPLER AFTER COMPUTER TONE
IS HEARD - WHEN GREEN CARRIER LIGHT COMES ON - HIT RETURN ONCE -
TERMINAL WILL SAY CONNECTED AND AUTOMATICALLY SIGN YOU ON AND GIVE
YOU THE NAME, ADDRESS AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF YOUR SUBJECT.

UP TO 4 RECORDS MAY BE DELIVERED. FORMER ADDRESS, EMPLOYMENT AND
AGE INFORMATION PROVIDED WHEN AVAILABLE.

IF NO RECORD FOUND OUTPUT WILL BE:
51 NO RECORD FOUND

CBI/EQUIFAX
CONFIDENTIAL

"THE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER"
by Barbara Bennett and The Producer

July, 1993. -- I have NO idea where the hell I downloaded this one
from, but it's an EXTREMELY useful text, by some whore named Barbara Bennett,
which discusses the significance of the Social Security Number. This, as I
said, is VERY useful information to have -- especially when engaging in scams
which require that you reside, have resided or were born in a particular part
of the United States. Please refer to this text for all applicable future
SCAM!s. Her unedited words follow:

*

"The Social Security Number"

SSA has continually emphasized the fact that the SSN identifies a
particular record only and the Social Security Card indicates the person whose
record is identified by that number. In no way can the Social Security Card
identify the bearer. From 1946 to 1972 the legend "Not for Identification" was
printed on the face of the card. However, many people ignored the message and
the legend was eventually dropped. The social security number is the most
widely used and carefully controlled number in the country, which makes it an
attractive identifier.

With the exception of the restrictions imposed on Federal and some
State and local organizations by the Privacy Act of 1974, organizations
requiring a unique identifier for purposes of controlling their records are not
prohibited from using (with the consent of the holder) the SSN. SSA records are
confidential and knowledge of a person's SSN does not give the user access to
information in SSA files which is confidential by law.

Many commercial enterprises have used the SSN in various promotional
efforts. These uses are not authorized by SSA, but SSA has no authority to
prohibit such activities as most are not illegal. Some of these unauthorized
uses are: SSN contests; skip-tracers; sale or distribution of plastic or metal
cards; pocketbook numbers (the numbers used on sample social security cards in
wallets); misleading advertising, commercial enterprises charging fees for SSN
services; identification of personal property.

The Social Security Number (SSN) is composed of 3 parts, XXX-XX-XXXX,
called the Area, Group, and Serial. For the most part, (there are exceptions),
the Area is determined by where the individual APPLIED for the SSN (before
1972) or RESIDED at time of application (after 1972). The areas are assigned as
follows:

000	unused	387-399	WI	528-529	UT
001-003	NH	400-407	KY	530	NV
004-007	ME	408-415	TN	531-539	WA
008-009	VT	416-424	AL	540-544	OR
010-034	MA	425-428	MS	545-573	CA
035-039	RI	429-432	AR	574	AK
040-049	CT	433-439	LA	575-576	HI
050-134	NY	440-448	OK	577-579	DC
135-158	NJ	449-467	TX	580	VI Virgin Islands
159-211	PA	468-477	MN	581-584	PR Puerto Rico
212-220	MD	478-485	IA	585	NM
221-222	DE	486-500	MO	586	PI Pacific Islands*
223-231	VA	501-502	ND	587-588	MS
232-236	WV	503-504	SD	589-595	FL
237-246	NC	505-508	NE	596-599	PR Puerto Rico
247-251	SC	509-515	KS	600-601	AZ
252-260	GA	516-517	MT	602-626	CA
261-267	FL	518-519	ID	*Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Philippine Islands	
268-302	OH	520	WY		
303-317	IN	521-524	CO		
318-361	IL	525	NM		
362-386	MI	526-527	AZ		

627-699 unassigned, for future use

700-728 Railroad workers through 1963, then discontinued

729-899 unassigned, for future use

900-999 not valid SSNs, but were used for program purposes when State aid to the aged, blind and disabled was converted to a Federal program administered by SSA.

As the Areas assigned to a locality are exhausted, new areas from the pool are assigned. This is why some states have non-contiguous groups of Areas.

The Group portion of the SSN has no meaning other than to determine whether or not a number has been assigned. SSA publishes a list every month of the highest group assigned for each SSN Area. The order of assignment for the Groups is: odd numbers under 10, even numbers over 9, even numbers under 9 except for 00 which is never used, and odd numbers over 10. For example, if the highest group assigned for area 999 is 72, then we know that the number 999-04-1234 is an invalid number because even Groups under 9 have not yet been assigned.

The Serial portion of the SSN has no meaning. The Serial is not assigned in strictly numerical order. The Serial 0000 is never assigned.

Before 1973, Social Security Cards with pre-printed numbers were issued to each local SSA office. The numbers were assigned by the local office. In 1973, SSN assignment was automated and outstanding stocks of pre-printed cards were destroyed. All SSNs are now assigned by computer from headquarters. There are rare cases in which the computer system can be forced to accept a manual assignment such as a person refusing a number with 666 in it.

A pamphlet entitled "The Social Security Number" (Pub. No. 05-10633) provides an explanation of the SSN's structure and the method of assigning and validating Social Security numbers.

July, 1993. -- Have you ever had a time when you needed a credit card number quickly? Well, my fellow SCAM!mers, there are of course numerous ways to get REAL credit card numbers, along with their expiration dates, but I'll leave that topic for a future edition of "SCAM!" (sorry, but, as you know, I just LOVE leaving these little teasers so you'll download my next issue!)

In this article, however, I'm going to discuss something that, for its usefulness, it equally important: the method of obtaining credit card numbers that an UNSOPHISTICATED user (e.g. a BBS or other organization which either has no need or means to verify), will deem as mathematically VALID credit card numbers.

The Importance of Numerical Progression

Visa, American Express, Discover and MasterCard all have specific arrangements of numbers. You see them in their "groups" of three and four, of course, but you probably don't know the significance of the numbers within each group. To make life simple, let me just state that the numbers that appear in each group -- and the ORDER they appear -- will mathematically define valid credit cards. If you knew what numbers were mathematically valid, you would be in a more powerful position because, if such a number were to be needed, it could be readily and easily supplied without the necessity of enduring the procedures of obtaining actual credit card numbers. Take heart: as of today, you can do this! Why? The program for doing this has been enclosed, right here and right now, with this edition of "SCAM!" and it is available for you, my loyal "SCAM!" friends, to use immediately!

Daniel J. Karnes' Credit Card Verifier

If you downloaded this edition of "SCAM!" properly, you have already seen an additional file in SCAM2.ZIP called VC.EXE. This is a very small and very handy little program by a man named Daniel J. Karnes who, for the life of me, I have no idea who he is. Anyway, my fellow SCAM!mers, this little gem can be of great value to you.

Using this utility is as easy as jerking off to a photo of Cindy Crawford ... First, just move the file into the directory where you want the program to reside. There's no self-extracting garbage, no nothing; the only file in the program is VC.EXE, nothing more. It's so small, it'll take up NO space really, and it's well worth having. Simply type VC at the prompt, then RETURN. The utility will prompt you to enter a credit card number. Do so. Then, hit RETURN. The program will then tell you whether the number you entered is a mathematically valid Visa, American Express, Discover or MasterCard number. If the number you entered is mathematically incorrect for any of these four types of cards, the program will also tell you so.

Have you figured out the value of this yet? Here's a scenario:

You need a credit card number for some local BBS that wants to have it for their records. But, if you just give them an arbitrary number, their computer might have a program to recognize that it's "a fake, a phony and a fraud" (quoting one of my favorite radio personalities, WABC's Bob Grant!) So, merely play with this utility by entering different credit card numbers until you hit. Then, when you get a valid number, write it down and start all over again. Eventually you will get hundreds of valid credit card numbers of all types; keep these altogether on one sheet of paper and, if the need ever arises for you to furnish a credit card number, you've got one! What could be easier?

*** "SCAM!" SUGGESTION: ***

You'll have an easier time of getting valid credit card numbers on this utility if you enter variations of

known real credit card numbers. For example:

Suppose you wanted to try to get a valid VISA number. You open your wallet, take out your VISA card, and note that it's number is 4408 9104 0001 1234. So, in the utility you might want to try 4408 9205 0001 1237 -- a slight variation on a known REAL number. This way, your likelihood of achieving success is GREATLY increased*.

(*Yes, those #'s were just EXAMPLES!!)

*** "SCAM!" SUGGESTION: ***

It is unknown to the author whether you need to put spaces in between when entering a credit card number on this utility. I can only tell you that I have always put spaces in, and it works. So, put spaces in!

The author has personally tried this utility many times with known credit card numbers and, surprisingly enough, it works every time! Similarly, it knows when bogus numbers are entered. So fear not ... if this program can deem your credit card number valid, then so will the user's program.

*** "SCAM!" WARNING: ***

DON'T rely on this program as a substitute for REAL credit card numbers! There are times when you must absolutely need to enter a real, actual credit card number. If you're presented with such an occasion, this program will NOT suffice! If you don't know when you need actual credit card numbers and when numbers supplied by this program will suffice, then BE PATIENT and wait for an upcoming edition of "SCAM!" to tell you when to use what!

A final note on this: You can get the mathematically correct credit card numbers using this utility, as I said above. But what about expiration dates? Simple: Just choose a month and year at random, and you're set!

*** "SCAM!" SUGGESTION: ***

When choosing an expiration date, choose one that's about 18 to 22 months from now. Why? Most credit cards have maximum terms of TWO YEARS. If you choose an expiration over 24 months, it will look suspicious and may not even be accepted. If you choose an expiration of, say 1 month, you may be faced with the possibility of re-entering your credit card number and supplying a new expiration date when that month is up. When the month is up, you may very well have forgotten the credit card number or expiration date you supplied! Wouldn't that be a shame??!! So, if you choose an expiration of 18, 19 months, etc. (but NOT more than 24!), you know you'll have the freedom of usage of that number for at least that period of time.

July, 1993. -- I intend to demonstrate the absolute continuing need for a new callers' right to privacy, and how this privilege is being taken away.

Newuser Guidelines on "Mr.X"'s BBS

Upon recently logging on as a newuser on the BBS of "Mr. X", as I'll call him here, I was confronted with the usual stuff about the terms and conditions of the BBS, etc. Then, I was asked to give my name, address and telephone number --to which I responded "CONFIDENTIAL". Then, I was brought to the "questionnaire" area, where I was asked the usual droll fare like, "What is '2600'?", "What does IIRG stand for?", "Do you phreak?", etc. The appropriate responses were supplied. Finally, I was brought into the message area to leave a message to the Sysop stating specifically why I want access. Subsequently, I was told that if after 24 hours I call back and find that my handle is not recognized, "Don't call back again" (how rude!) The BBS states that the message must meet with the satisfaction of "Mr. X", and I presumed this was to weed out nerds and Secret Service agents. Quite understandable, I thought ... and so I proceeded to leave my message.

Privacy Invasion Attempted from Response to Message

[Excerpt of THE PRODUCER's original message to obtain access]:

THE PRODUCER: "You guys protect yourselves by using handles only and keeping your numbers private because of the fine-line of what you have online; I also wish to remain private, to protect myself just in case. If I'm paranoid, sorry, but as I said, I'm new. I can't learn anything unless others help me."

[Excerpt of "MR. X"'s response]:

"MR. X": "Well, we all go by handles and such, but, we still need real info. Why? Otherwise our records get all cluttered. You won't see any of us using this info at all. But, it is very essential. Everything here IS legal, so there is NOTHING to worry about. Nevertheless, we do require things such as this. So, before you can be granted access, you will need to give us [your] real name, address, city/state, zip, and phone number. If you don't wish to do this, please tell me so I can delete your account."

*

Gimme a break! Do you really believe he wants my real name, etc. just to make sure his "records" don't get "cluttered"? Come on, jack!

Phellow readers, take note that in my opening message I told this gentleman about "SCAM!" and, if he had any questions about The Producer's intentions or integrity, suggested he call The Rune Stone BBS, download SCAM1.ZIP, and see what I'm all about. I even offered to regularly download the latest issues of "SCAM!" on HIS board, too! But this was The Producer's reward for courtesy and generosity, my friends.

Well, you know I just had to call back and leave a reply ...

[Excerpt of reply]:

THE PRODUCER: "As to anonymity, I take offense at someone who INSISTS that I reveal my true name, address and phone number -- from which you very well know you could learn everything else about me -- when you yourself BLATANTLY refuse to reveal who you are and where you are. For all I know, your BBS's number could be call-forwarded to Peru! If everything is SO legal and

there's NOTHING to worry about, as you say, then WHY DON'T YOU COME FORWARD FIRST??!"

Not bad, if I do say so myself! What do you think? I was unimpressed by the tiresome reiterations of how "legal" the BBS is; my feeling is, alright, you said it once and I got the message, you're legit, OK. Sure. But, another very important point is this: For what purpose should one's identity, especially on a "fine-line" BBS of this type, be revealed?

Pitfalls of Revealing True Identity

Clearly, "Mr. X" wishes to have the one-way power; however, The Producer stands firm and refuses to yield. My suggestion to fellow readers is to steadfastly do the same. Think about it -- we have no idea who these Sysops are. For all we know, they could be 12-year-olds who haven't a clue what they're getting themselves into. Would you want to have your name, address, phone number, etc. amongst a group of others and written on a list somewhere that was taken as part of an undercover RAID some acne-faced teenager inadvertently got himself targeted for? I WOULDN'T! Privacy in the U. S. is a RIGHT, not a privilege. Granted, it's being slowly taken away from us by the government, but let's at least try to keep what little we have left, without letting unknown Sysops take it away!

Weeding Out The Undercover Guys

Something else to remember here: it seems this man was either really on a power trip, in a really cruddy mood, or was otherwise suspect of The Producer. Let's clearly, unquestionably, unequivocally, fully and completely eliminate the latter: The Producer is not a member of ANY law enforcement agency, and never was! Do you get the gist? Do you know what that means, and what it implies? Simple (and remember this, in case you don't know): If anyone, anywhere at anytime is a member of any law enforcement agency of any kind, and if this person is operating in an "undercover" fashion, he or she MUST, when asked, confirm the fact that he or she is a member of a law enforcement agency. If a policeman or Secret Service man were to deny his involvement, that's called "entrapment". It doesn't matter if you're charged with jaywalking or murder, the fact remains that if you were entrapped in any way, shape or form, you will NEVER be convicted; this is why law enforcement personnel MUST reveal their true selves when asked. Thus, The Producer cannot understand why, if the simple question is asked and answered "No", should this not be sufficient to gain access onto "Mr. X"'s BBS, or any other BBS for that matter?

Why should a person's real name be required? Everyone knows what the Sysop is looking for -- unwanted outsiders. The Producer says: Weed them out with the simple question, "Are you now or have you ever been a member of any law enforcement agency in any State or Territory of The United States of America?" If they answer "No", then, as Paul McCartney & Wings said (I think around 1976?), "LET HIM IN, OH YEAH!"

What Can We Do?

I respectfully suggest the following to all "SCAM!" readers: if you find yourself logging on to a "fine-line" BBS, and if this BBS requires verifiable personal ID as discussed above, simply disconnect and don't call again! True, you might be missing out on some files, but you might also be saving yourself from some unnecessary detention at the local police station (and remember, even if the police let you go, once your name is on record it's ALWAYS on record -- REGARDLESS of what they tell you!) Don't just say, "Oh yeah, sure," and take this helpful tip lightly! -- ONLY logon to BBS's with your handle and NOTHING more, and reveal NO verifiable personals about yourself or your whereabouts. If everyone with a modem were to follow these rules, you

can be certain that no BBS in America would ever again require real names and addresses -- or else they'd find themselves with no callers! So, let's start a trend!

Epilogue

One final note to this: The Producer wishes to make NO unnecessary enemies in the BBS world. "Mr. X" gave his opinion and, right or wrong, it's his board and he's entitled to it ... that's a principle our country was founded on, which too many of us seem to be forgetting nowadays. This article was written not to dissuade future callers to "Mr. X"'s BBS, which may very well contain valuable files. It is merely offered as an illustration of the need for continued privacy for all -- both Sysops AND callers. And may I also note that the ad for his BBS, which is downloadable, is quite cool!

And for those of you who are probably saying, "The Producer accused "Mr. X" of being on a power trip, but The Producer has used the power of his OWN magazine, "SCAM!", to publish this article AGAINST "Mr. X"! Doesn't that put The Producer on a power trip, too?"

To this I respond, well, maybe, but hell ... what the fuck!

"POLICE INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES" by ???

July, 1993. -- EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was obtained by an anonymous donor and represents some of the tools used by the police in obtaining statements of confession during interrogation. Upon information and belief, the materials contained in this article are fully accurate as of the date of this publication. My thanx to the donor for his contrib'! The unedited text follows:

*

Why Suspects Confess

Many criminal cases, even when investigated by the most experienced and best qualified investigators, are ultimately solved by an admission or confession from the person responsible for committing the crime. Oftentimes, investigators are able to secure only a minimal amount of evidence, be it physical or circumstantial, that points directly to a suspect, and in many instances, this evidence is not considered strong enough by prosecutors to obtain a conviction. In such cases, the interrogation of the suspects and their subsequent confessions are of prime importance.

This article addresses the question of why suspects speak freely to investigators, and ultimately, sign full confessions. The physical and psychological aspects of confession and how they relate to successful interrogations of suspects are also discussed, as is the "breakthrough," the point in the interrogation when suspects make an admission, no matter how minuscule, that begins the process of obtaining a full confession.

Defining "Interrogation"

Interrogation is the questioning of a person suspected of having committed a crime. It is designed to match acquired information to a particular suspect in order to secure a confession. The goals of interrogation include:

* To learn the truth of the crime and how it happened

- * To obtain an admission of guilt from the suspect
- * To obtain all the facts to determine the method of operation and the circumstances of the crime in question
- * To gather information that enables investigators to arrive at logical conclusions
- * To provide information for use by the prosecutor in possible court action.

Knowing the definition and objectives of the interrogation, the question then asked is, "Why do suspects confess?" Self-condemnation and self-destruction are not normal human behavioral characteristics. Human beings ordinarily do not utter unsolicited, spontaneous confessions. It is logical to conclude, therefore, that when suspects are taken to police stations to be questioned concerning their involvement in a particular crime, their immediate reaction will be a refusal to answer any questions. With the deluge of television programs that present a clear picture of the Miranda warning and its application to suspects, one would conclude that no one questioned about a crime would surrender incriminating information, much less supply investigators with a signed, full confession. It would also seem that once suspects sense the direction in which the investigators are heading, the conversation would immediately end. However, for various psychological reasons, suspects continue to speak with investigators.

Suspect Paranoia

Suspects are never quite sure of exactly what information investigators possess. They know that the police are investigating the crime, and in all likelihood, suspects have followed media accounts of their crimes to determine what leads the police have. Uppermost in their minds, however, is how to escape detection and obtain firsthand information about the investigation and where it is heading.

Such "paranoia" motivates suspects to accompany the police voluntarily for questioning. Coupled with curiosity, this paranoia motivates suspects to appear at police headquarters as "concerned citizens" who have information pertinent to the case. By doing this, suspects may attempt to supply false or noncorroborative information in order to lead investigators astray, gain inside information concerning the case from investigators, and remove suspicion from themselves by offering information on the case so investigators will not suspect their involvement.

For example, in one case, a 22-year-old woman was discovered in a stairwell outside of a public building. The woman had been raped and was found naked and bludgeoned. Investigators interviewed numerous people during the next several days but were unable to identify any suspects. Media coverage on the case was extremely high.

Several days into the investigation, a 23-year-old man appeared at police headquarters with two infants in tow and informed investigators that he believed he may have some information regarding the woman's death. The man revealed that when he was walking home late one evening, he passed the area where the woman was found and observed a "strange individual" lurking near an adjacent phone booth. The man said that because he was frightened of the stranger, he ran back to his home. After reading the media accounts of the girl's death, he believed that he should tell the police what he had observed.

The man gave police a physical description of the "stranger" and then helped an artist to compose a sketch of the individual. After he left, investigators discovered that the sketch bore a strong resemblance to the "witness" who provided the information.

After further investigation, the witness was asked to return to the police station to answer more questions, which he did gladly. Some 15 hours into the interrogation, he confessed to one of his "multiple personalities"

having killed the woman, who was unknown to him, simply because the victim was a woman, which is what the suspect had always wanted to be.

This case clearly illustrates the need for some suspects to know exactly what is happening in an investigation. In their minds, they honestly believe that by hiding behind the guise of "trying to help," they will, without incriminating themselves, learn more about the case from the investigators.

The Interrogation Setting

In any discussion concerning interrogation, it is necessary to include a review of the surroundings where a suspect is to be interrogated. Because there is a general desire to maintain personal integrity before family members and peer groups, suspects should be removed from familiar surroundings and taken to a location that has an atmosphere more conducive to cooperativeness and truthfulness. The primary psychological factor contributing to successful interrogations is privacy -- being totally alone with suspects. This privacy prompts suspects to feel willing to unload the burden of guilt. The interrogation site should isolate the suspect so that only the interrogator is present. The suspect's thoughts and responses should be free from all outside distractions or stimuli.

The interrogation setting also plays an important part in obtaining confessions. The surroundings should reduce suspect fears and contribute to the inclination to discuss the crime. Because fear is a direct reinforcement for defensive mechanisms (resistance), it is important to erase as many fears as possible. Therefore, the interrogation room should establish a business atmosphere as opposed to a police-like atmosphere. While drab, barren interrogation rooms increase fear in suspects, a location that displays an open, you-have-nothing-to-fear quality about it can do much to break down interrogation defensiveness, thereby eliminating a major barrier. The interrogators tend to disarm the suspects psychologically by placing them in surroundings that are free from any fear-inducing distractions.

Psychological Factors

More than likely, suspects voluntarily accompany investigators, either in response to a police request to answer questions or in an attempt to learn information about the investigation. Once settled in the interrogation room, the interrogators should treat suspects in a civilized manner, no matter how vicious or serious the crime might have been. While they may have feelings of disgust for the suspects, the goal is to obtain a confession, and it is important that personal emotions not be revealed.

Investigators should also adopt a compassionate attitude and attempt to establish a rapport with suspects. In most cases, suspects commit crimes because they believe that it offers the best solution to their needs at the moment. Two rules of thumb to remember are: (1) "There but for the grace of God go I"; and (2) it is important to establish a common level of understanding with the suspects. These rules are critical to persuading suspects to be open, forthright, and honest. Suspects should be persuaded to look beyond the investigators' badges and see, instead, officers who listen without judging. If investigators are able to convince suspects that the key issue is not the crime itself, but what motivated them to commit the crime, they will begin to rationalize or explain their motivating factors.

At this stage of the interrogation, investigators are on the brink of having suspects break through remaining defensive barriers to admit involvement in the crime. This is the critical stage of the interrogation process known as the "breakthrough".

The "Breakthrough"

The "breakthrough" is the point in the interrogation when suspects make an admission, no matter how small. In spite of having been advised of certain protections guaranteed by the Constitution, most suspects feel a need to confess. Both hardcore criminals and first-time offenders suffer from the same pangs of conscience. This is an indication that their defense mechanisms are diminished, and at this point, the investigators may push through to elicit the remaining elements of confession.

In order for interrogators to pursue a successful breakthrough, they must recognize and understand certain background factors that are unique to a particular suspect. Many times, criminals exhibit psychological problems that are the result of having come from homes torn by conflict and dissension. Also frequently found in the backgrounds of criminals are parental rejection and inconsistent and severe punishment. It is important that investigators see beyond the person sitting before them and realize that past experiences can impact on current behavior. Once interrogators realize that the fear of possible punishment, coupled with the loss of pride in having to admit to committing mistakes, is the basic inhibitor they must overcome in suspects, they will quickly be able to formulate questions and analyze responses that will break through the inhibitors.

Successful Interrogations

Investigators must conduct every interrogation with the belief that suspects, when presented with the proper avenue, will use it to confess their crimes. Research indicates that most guilty persons who confess are, from the outset, looking for the proper opening during the interrogation to communicate their guilt to the interrogators.

Suspects confess when the internal anxiety caused by their deception outweighs their perceptions of the crime's consequences. In most instances, suspects have magnified, in their minds, both the severity of the crime and the possible repercussions. Interrogators should allay suspect anxiety by putting these fears into perspective.

Suspects also make admissions or confessions when they believe that cooperation is the best course of action. If they are convinced that officers are prepared to listen to all of the circumstances surrounding the crimes, they will begin to talk. The psychological and physiological pressures that build in a person who has committed a crime are best alleviated by communicating. In order to relieve these suppressed pressures, suspects explain the circumstances of their crimes they confess.

And, finally, suspects confess when interrogators are able to speculate correctly on why the crimes were committed. Suspects want to know ahead of time that interrogators will believe what they have to say and will understand what motivated them to commit the crime.

Conclusion

It is natural for suspects to want to preserve their privacy, civil rights, and liberties. It is also natural for suspects to resist discussing their criminal acts. For these very reasons, however, investigators must develop the skills that enable them to disarm defensive resistors established by suspects during interrogation. Before suspects will confess, they must feel comfortable in their surroundings, and they must have confidence in the interrogators, who should attempt to gain this confidence by listening intently to them and by allowing them to verbalize their accounts of the crimes.

Interrogators who understand what motivates suspects to confess will be better able to formulate effective questions and analyze suspect responses. Obviously, more goes into gaining a confession than is contained in this

most also including the person's date of birth! Many also include the person's current occupation, place of employment AND salary. These numbers, which are available for REAL, LIVING persons, can in many cases be tailored to your needs for specific age, race and/or nationality. NO MONEY DESIRED FOR THIS INFORMATION; USE YOUR BRAIN TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S WANTED IN RETURN! DISCLAIMER: The authors and publishers of this magazine shall act merely as liaison to any parties responding to this advertisement, for informational and entertainment purposes only. RESPOND, PLEASE, IN THE APPROPRIATE FASHION.

FIND OUT INFO ON THAT AMEX CARD! If you know the number of an American Express Card AND the social security number of the cardholder, just dial the following number: 1-800-292-2639. A computer-generated program will permit you to find out lots of valuable information on the card such as last payment, available limits, etc. You do NOT need to know the expiration date of the card! Works for greens, golds and platinums. CALL (from a payphone) TODAY!

*** SCAM! SUGGESTION ***

If the computer attempts to transfer you to a live operator, this means some of the information you gave them didn't jive. DISCONNECT IMMEDIATELY!

*** SCAM! SUGGESTION ***

Have more AMEX inquiries? Call 1-800-528-4800 for a live person ... but know what you're doing!! Calls are answered M-F 9:30-5:30 EST.

WANTED: VALID WDIA ACCOUNTS, PASSWORDS AND LOGON HELP. WDIA is (or was) one of the nation's largest electronic databases that acts (or did act) as a gateway to DMV, credit card bureaus and courthouse records nationwide. Its function is (or was) to provide private investigators with the necessary tools for tracing, tracking, etc. private individuals and/or businesses and, upon entering the proper search requests, can offer credit card histories, criminal background checks, business investigations etc. nationwide, if not worldwide. If you have enjoyed reading "SCAM!" magazine and have found it of any value to you, please leave a PRIVATE message for THE PRODUCER on The Rune Stone BBS (see above), or furnish a BBS number where the above information can be obtained. Again, please respect the rules of The Rune Stone and do NOT post public ANY info of this type. Each message will be treated with the UTMOST confidentiality and will be sincerely appreciated.

*** "SCAM!" SUGGESTION: ***

For total anonymity, use the PKZIP encryption technique described above. Especially when dealing with WDIA, I would suggest it.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD IN "SCAM!" MAGAZINE: Leave a PRIVATE message for THE PRODUCER on The Rune Stone BBS (see above). Your real name, address, etc. are NOT needed to place classified ads. You may leave your handle, e-mail address and/or BBS message area where others can respond to your ad. NO FEE IS REQUIRED! Classified ads MUST conform to the general content of "SCAM!" magazine. Classified ads for "conservative" BBS's (e.g. BBS's containing shareware programs, games, etc.) will NOT be posted, so please don't waste my time! Classified ads containing actual credit card numbers, passwords, etc. will NOT be posted, simply because the posting of such information would be clearly illegal; however, classified ads that contain SOURCES to obtain this information are acceptable and, in fact, are encouraged. Classified ads will be posted based upon their content and at the sole and exclusive discretion of THE PRODUCER. In your request, please don't

forget to specifically state that you wish a classified ad, or else your info will simply be treated confidentially and I will not know to post it. Please help make "SCAM!" magazine grow by submitting your classified ad today!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN "SCAM!" MAGAZINE: "SCAM!" magazine is searching for new "Field Researchers"! If you have something you feel is valuable to the readers of "SCAM!" and would like to submit it for consideration, please do so! Here's how: Leave a PRIVATE message for THE PRODUCER on The Rune Stone BBS (see above). In this message, state the following: (1) your handle; (2) a brief (please!) description of your offering; (3) about how many pages is it?; (4) a BBS that you belong to, other than The Rune Stone BBS; and (5) newuser password and logon info for that other BBS. Generally only articles, in ASCII form, will be accepted; executable programs, unless VERY useful and VERY small, cannot be considered simply due to the forum. Please post your proposed article in ZIP, ARJ or LHA on that other BBS (not the Rune Stone!) If your article seems really worthwhile, it will be downloaded, reviewed and ultimately published. In your request, please don't forget to specifically state that you wish an article published, or else your info will simply be treated confidentially and I will not know to consider it. Please help make "SCAM!" magazine grow by submitting your articles for consideration today!

*** "SCAM!" SUGGESTION: ***

If you would like to keep your article confidential prior to its appearance in "SCAM!", do the following: Place the article in "ZIP" form on the other BBS, but add PKZIP encryption to the file. In your private message, leave the key. That way, no one else can read the article.

EDITORIALS AND SUGGESTION BOX. All articles in "SCAM!" magazine are subject to EDITORIAL REPLY by my readers. This is a free country and you're entitled to respond, so PLEASE DO SO! I welcome your thoughts and ideas. Do you have any suggestions on how to make "SCAM!" better, or what you'd like to see in "SCAM!"?? Was there something in "SCAM!" you disagree with, or would like to have clarified?? Is there a particular scam you'd like to pull off, but don't know how?? Leave a PRIVATE message for THE PRODUCER on The Rune Stone BBS and let your editorial replies be heard for future publications of this magazine!

UNTIL NEXT TIME, HAPPY "SCAM!"S & BE WELL!

--- -- T H E P R O D U C E R -- ---

SNEEZING, COUGHING, CHOKING and GASPING FOR UNPOLLUTED AIR IN GOD'S COUNTRY...

NEW YORK STATE, U. S. A.!

The End