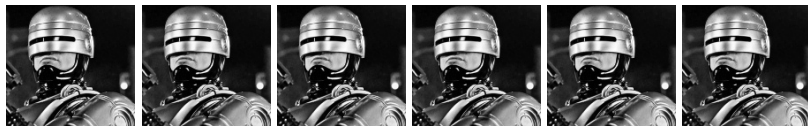


a little CRC...



Northcliffe Tel: 9776 7330  
Community Fax: 9776 7338  
Resource PO Box 133, Northcliffe  
Centre

# compu-cops



## .....report an online scam [www.acorn.gov.au](http://www.acorn.gov.au)

ACORN stands for "Australian Cybercrime Online Reporting Network" and is a Federal Government initiative to make Australia and Australians less of a target for cybercrime.

Thanks to the office of Rick Wilson MP for letting us know about this new service. Visit this web address to report online banking scams, or anything else dodgy you spot online, which you think should be reported. Online banking scams should also be drawn to the attention of the bank they are purporting to represent.

If, like many, you receive several email scams of this type per week, you might get a bit tired of reporting them and I personally have never bothered. You'll have to decided the balance yourself. I think many private citizens are going to struggle knowing what is worth reporting and what isn't. However if a cybercrime affects you personally this may be a very useful service.



## ...stay safe online if you're a kid [www.cybersafetyhelp.gov.au](http://www.cybersafetyhelp.gov.au)

A cybersafety help button, linking to Federal Government assistance, is incorporated into many websites. Kids can also visit the address above to talk to someone, report cyber safety issues, or to learn more about cyber safety. The Australian Government includes an important disclaimer not to use this service for emergency : "If you are in danger call '000' or tell an adult you trust."

## .....WA's own scam busting service [www.scamnet.wa.gov.au](http://www.scamnet.wa.gov.au)

Scamnet is a part of the WA Department of Commerce, and aims to help consumers with both online and 'afk' scams (see right).

## .....project sunbird

Project Sunbird is a partnership between by Scamnet (see above) and the WA Major Fraud Squad. It focuses on online relationship scams and 'advance fee' scams. In these cases the victim will transfer money to someone on the promise that access to greater amounts of money will ensue, perhaps from an inheritance, or a Nigerian prince in exile (the famous 'Nigerian scam').

Project Sunbird has been tracking financial transactions from West Australians to targeted overseas areas such as Nigeria and sending letters to the potential victims warning them of the scams.

Visit [www.scamnet.wa.gov.au](http://www.scamnet.wa.gov.au) to see case histories from many West Australians who have been stung by these scams.

## .....old school policing dial 13 1444

You should also report illegal activities to your local police who will deal with the complaint and/or direct you to the most relevant agency to assist. 131444 is the phone number.

## ...acma spam intelligence database [report@submit.spam.acma.gov.au](mailto:report@submit.spam.acma.gov.au)

You can report spam emails to the Australian Communications and Media Authority. Spam is unwanted marketing email and many of these emails contain scams or links to websites infected with malware.

To report these use your email forwarding function and the email address above. Don't change the subject line or add any additional text to the email. Let's hope the ACMA do something useful with the thousands of forwarded emails they must receive.

Two good spam tips:

1. If you don't know who the sender of a spam email is then don't attempt to use an 'unsubscribe' link from within that email. This can indicate to the spammer that your email address is real and lead to MORE spam.
2. Consider changing your email to a service like gmail where spam filtering is automatic, free and generally more effective than the paid services you purchase from your internet provider.

## *is this the real life? is this just fantasy?*

*IRL = 'in real life'*

*AFK = 'away from keyboard'*

Infamous Pirate Bay website founder Peter Sunde was questioned by a prosecutor in 2009.

"When did you meet [Gottfrid] for the first time IRL?" asked the Prosecutor. "We do not use the expression IRL," said Peter, "We use AFK."

"IRL?" questioned the judge. "In Real Life," the Prosecutor explained to the judge.

"We do not use that expression," Peter noted. "Everything is in real life. We use AFK - Away From Keyboard." "Well," said Roswall. "It seems I am a little bit out of date."

Successful internet scams prove Peter's point. An exchange on the internet with someone you have never met might seem unreal yet West Australians have lost tens of millions 'in real life' dollars to date in such scams.

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