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Fear of Losing One’s Self

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Fear of Losing One’s Self

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The theft of one’s identity can leave a path of destruction that is not only devastating to an individual’s sense of privacy, but also to one’s financial security. Many feel violated just as they would if their home had been burglarized after the discovery that someone has stolen their identity in order to commit illegal acts of theft. Identity theft can take on many different forms, but is generally classified in two categories: existing account fraud and new account fraud. Identity theft crimes are increasing from year to year even with public warnings. There are companies that offer the public guaranteed identity protection. Are these companies really selling protection or just false promises? As technology advances, is the private information of people’s lives ever really unattainable to those seeking the identity of others? In the United States, people use one number from birth to death that can identify them in any governmental database. A person’s social security number allows the government to keep track of certain data for criminal records, tax records, and even driving records. This is also the one item another person needs to take over someone else’s life. This paper will examine who the victims of identity theft normally are and why they are targeted, prevention methods: if the benefits outweigh the cost, and cost of victims and society.