

# Bulletin



**Date:** October 11, 2005  
**Bulletin #:** SNE10-11-05-1530  
**To:** Financial Institutions and Processors on the STAR<sup>®</sup> Northeast Platform  
**Platform:**  Southeast  Northeast  West  
**Urgency:**  High  Intermediate  Low  
**Content:**  Operational Alert  Informational  Follow-up to Bulletin/Action Fax #:  
**Subject:** Fraudulent Internet Website Using the STAR Name

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Please be aware that there is an Internet website using the name “Star Systems” without authorization from STAR, that is requesting individuals provide cardholder information. This fraudulent request is made under the guise of providing improved security for consumers. One version of this website provides a picture of a card being inserted into a card reader.

This particular website is not connected with the STAR Network and has been established by unknown persons presumably for the sole purpose of “phishing” cardholder information. Phishing is a form of identity theft where fraudsters, often posing as a trusted financial institution, act as if they are representing you and try to hook consumers into providing personal information. STAR is currently discussing the website with federal authorities. If you receive questions from your cardholders regarding this website, please deter them from using it and ultimately providing information that could potentially be used in making duplicate card plastics or other methods for the intent of performing fraudulent transactions. **The STAR Network does not and will not ask consumers to enter their cards over the Internet or in e-mail form when communicating with the network.**

The STAR Network continually strives to communicate to members and processors the types of fraud, skimming, and phishing that occur within the industry so that you may be better informed to protect customer information, combat fraud, and control losses.

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact Member Services at 877.866.7827.



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