

eWEEK

THE ENTERPRISE NEWSWEEKLY

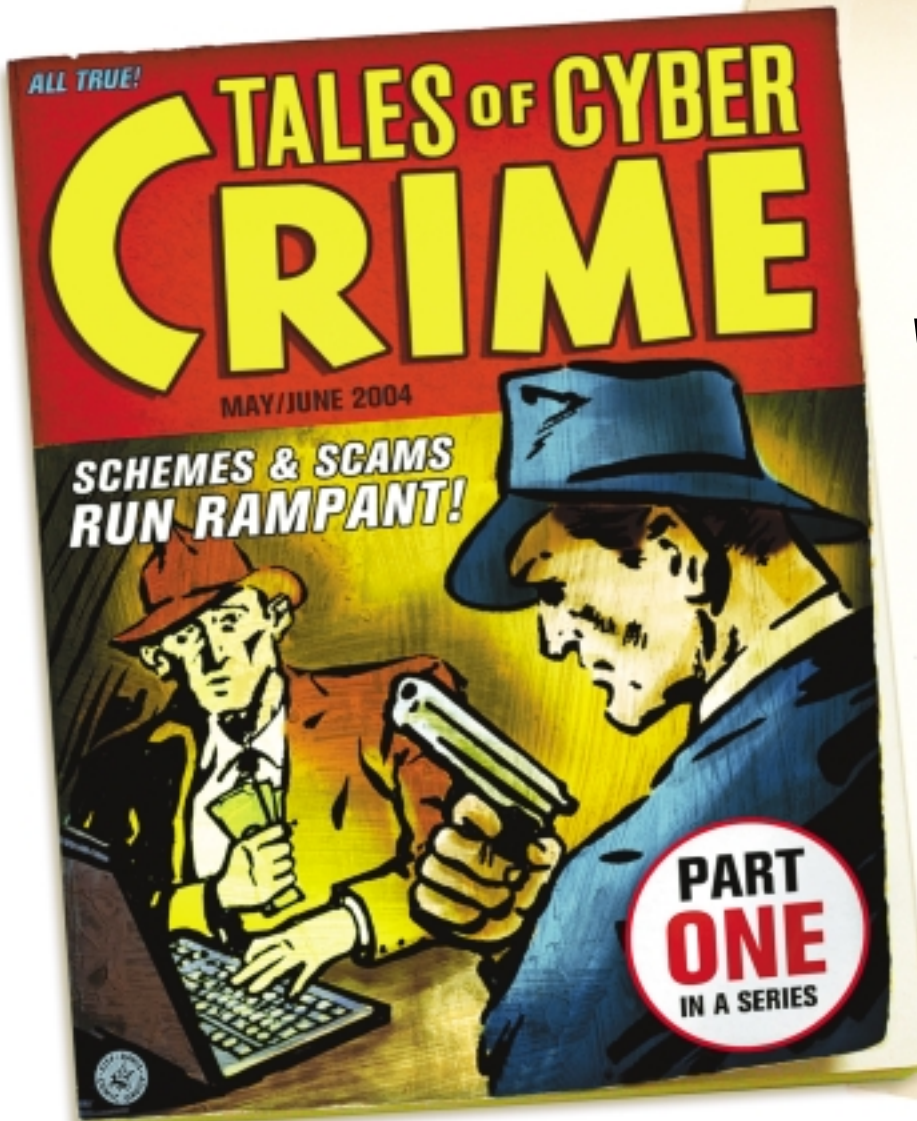
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AS CYBER-CRIME CLIMBS, ENFORCEMENT DESCENDS, AND UNPREPARED COMPANIES PAY THE PRICE. THESE ARE THEIR STORIES.

BY DENNIS FISHER

WHEN DONNA GETGEN OPENED a letter from her credit union in March, the message within was anything but routine. Getgen was informed that she had been the victim of a cyber-theft.

Getgen's account number, the letter read, was stolen from a database at BJ's Wholesale Club Inc., where she shopped from time to time. Stunned, Getgen, a business operations specialist for a high-tech company from Owings, Md., would later learn that she was one of tens of thousands of victims of one of the largest cyber-thefts in recent history.

The BJ's security breach, which occurred over seven months from late 2003 to early

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