

Media Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

To the Editor:

U.S. Bank Fraudulently Attached to Overseas Debit Card

On Tuesday, July 24, 2007, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) issued an alert we expect we will be seeing a lot more of. A3Card, an independent debit card issuer in association with Caribbean Software LTD in the Commonwealth of Dominica in the Caribbean, was using the good name of **4-Star Cumberland Valley National Bank & Trust Company, East Bernstadt, KY** on its web site to give the appearance that the U.S. bank was behind the card.

It was not. And while the bank's name has now been removed from the web site, it is not yet clear how many consumers were duped into thinking they were applying for a card at a reputable bank. This is just one more way con artists are trying to take advantage of those with meager means. To purchase a debit card, it is safe to assume the purchaser cannot acquire a card without paying for it (some reasons include: bad credit, no credit, undocumented residents, etc.).

This particular debit card costs: \$89.95 plus shipping and handling; plus a \$4.95 processing fee (per deposit); plus anywhere from 1.75% to 3.75% of the amount deposited; plus \$3.45 to use an ATM; plus \$0.95 for a decline at either an ATM or point of sale (POS); plus \$1.45 for an ATM inquiry; plus \$2.95 for a POS transaction; not to mention the \$4.95 monthly maintenance.

Since this predatory scheme is based in the Caribbean, we hope most people would have seen through it. But by fraudulently attaching the name of a legitimate U.S. bank, they probably got away with a lot more than they should have.

This is just one more reason to always check out any bank you are dealing with or planning to deal with ...before it's too late.

For more information call 1.800.388.6686 or log on to www.bauerfinancial.com.

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