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Contact: [Steve Walker](#) (619) 531-3890
[Tanya Sierra](#) (619) 531-3315

DA Charges ID Thief with Skimming Debit Card Info from Nearly 1,000 Local Victims

Chase Bank Branch Seeks Victims, Estimates Loss at \$100,000

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) announced today a San Diego man has been charged with multiple felony counts for placing a debit card skimming device on the security door accessing the lobby of a local bank branch and ATM machines. The defendant also installed covert cameras aimed at capturing customers entering their PINs while using the ATM. Daniel Axinte, 49, is believed to have stolen more than 970 compromised ATM/debit cards with an initial loss of well over \$100,000.

“This brazen crime is a twist on debit card skimming, perpetrated by an ID thief who wasn’t afraid to repeat his crime over and over at the same location,” said DA Dumanis. “Bank customers had no idea their personal information was being compromised. But this latest crime should also remind San Diegans how important it is to protect their personal financial information as best they can.”

In late July, Chase Bank notified the San Diego Regional Fraud Task of an ongoing crime series occurring at one of their local bank branches. A Chase Bank investigator discovered an unknown suspect had been placing the debit card skimming device on the security door accessing the lobby of a local bank branch and ATM machines. The bank investigator reviewed surveillance videos from the branch and determined the same suspect had installed the skimmer and cameras on five previous weekends. Investigators from the San Diego Regional Fraud Task Force conducted surveillance at the bank branch and arrested the suspect.

“This case is another example of the priority given to identity theft cases by the Secret Service and our task force partners. We learned about the skimming activity on Friday, and arrested the suspect on Saturday,” said Gregory Meyer, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Secret Service’s San Diego Field Office. “This particular crime victimizes a large number of people in a very short time period, so it’s a priority to shut it down as quickly as possible.”

Axinte has been charged with multiple counts of identity theft, grand theft, access card forgery, and burglary. If convicted, he faces more than 20 years in state prison. He will be arraigned today at 1:30 p.m. in Department 12 of the San Diego Superior Court downtown.

(more)

The Chase Bank branch is located at 13275 Black Mountain Road in San Diego. Chase Bank officials want to remind customers that they are covered by [Zero Liability Protection](#) against unauthorized transactions. Customers should always monitor their accounts and promptly notify the bank if they see any transactions they don't recognize.

The San Diego Regional Fraud Task Force consists of investigators from the United States Secret Service, San Diego County District Attorney's Office and San Diego Police Department.

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