



# DenverDA

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **COMPUTER SECURITY/IDENTITY THEFT ALERT**

The Denver District Attorney's Office is issuing an urgent alert to computer users who use file-sharing software, specifically LimeWire.

During the course of a routine identity theft investigation, the Denver Police Department executed a search warrant at a Denver apartment and recovered personal and financial information from approximately 75 different individual and business account names from all over the country. The information, which included tax records, bank account information, online bill paying records and other material, appears to have been stolen directly from computers that were using LimeWire, a file-sharing software program.

It appears that the file-sharing program was exploited to enable someone sitting at a computer in Denver to illegally access everything – every file, every document – on computers across the country.

The investigation is continuing, and we are urging people who use LimeWire or other file-sharing software to ensure that their computer security is up to date including adequate firewall security, anti-virus software, and other measures.

Computer users should be aware of the inherent risk of any type of computer-to-computer file-sharing program. The Federal Trade Commission has published a consumer alert about file sharing which can be found at: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/alerts/sharealrt.htm>

An additional concern is the popularity of file-sharing among young adults and teenagers and the fact that the software is free and easy to download. If your child has a computer OR if you share a home computer with a young person, you should check to see if LimeWire or other file-sharing software has been installed on the computer. Computer users might consider uninstalling and deleting file-sharing software from their computers and consider having their computers screened by a reputable computer professional.