

For Immediate Release
Date – February 2003



www.early-warning.org.uk

Early Warning (UK) Ltd
PO Box 218, Bognor Regis
West Sussex, PO22 8XA

Tel : +44 (0) 1243 827179

AOL Users Targeted by New Email Scam

Members of The Early Warning online fraud prevention scheme have just discovered a new email Scam that targets users of AOL (America On-Line). The user initially receives the email below;

Dear AOL Member,

There has been a purchase added to your AOL account billing method. This purchase took place at 1-800-Flowers.com. To view and/or cancel this order please click here. Below is listed information about your order.

Product - 32 dozen long stem red roses

Price - \$79.99

Shipment Type - 3-5 Day

Ground Shipping and Handling - \$13.65

Total Price - \$93.64

If the user clicks on the accompanying link they are taken to a page on a site called <http://www.wegivefreequotes.org/> The user is then requested to enter their AOL account details. Early Warning has confirmed that this is a Scam and AOL users are warned not to access the site or give out their account details.

Early Warning has contacted 1-800-Flowers.com and they have confirmed that this email message has not originated from their organisation. AOL has also been informed of the Scam.

* Ends *

Further information can be obtained by calling Stephen Warren @ The Marketing Exchange on 01903 203205, or by emailing steve@marketingexchange.co.uk

Notes to Editors

For the past couple of years Andrew Goodwill, Managing Director of Early Warning Ltd, has owned and run a small computer parts business that takes credit card orders via the Web. During this time Andrew became increasingly dismayed at the volume of fraudulent orders he received, as well as the lack of any real system to help him identify the fraudsters. In September of last year, Andrew's response to the problem, was to launch the Early Warning website.

The web-based scheme, which can be found at www.early-warning.org.uk, is designed as a repository for bogus or fraudulent credit card orders. Members of the scheme can check their own online credit card orders against a database of known frauds, as well as contributing information on frauds that they have discovered themselves. Email alerts for all new frauds are also sent to those members requesting them.