

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

by the TRANSLATOR SCAMMERS INTELLIGENCE GROUP

translator-scammers.com

@tsdirectory

Issued: January 2, 2018 / Page 1 of 2

Our year online

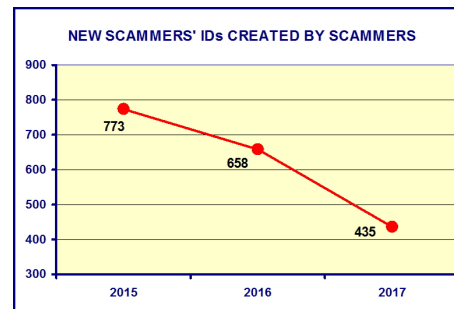
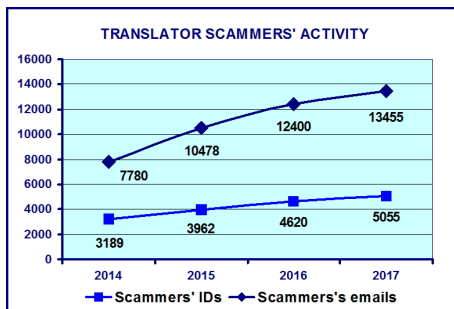
Scammers live online, operate online, and try to hide online. We're also online to make their lives a living hell, and to expose their operation and hiding places. Yes, the CV scam is real, and our rule is simple: whatever scammers make public, we publish it online for everyone to see! Below is a summary of our activities in 2017.

Items Tracked	2014	2015	Change from 2014	2016	Change from 2015	2017	Change from 2016
SCAMMERS' IDS EXPOSED (1)	3189	3962	24%	4620	17%	5055	9%
New scammers' IDs created per MONTH	n/a	64		55	-15%	36	-34%
SCAMMERS' EMAIL ADDRESSES EXPOSED	7780	10478	35%	12400	18%	13455	9%
New scammers' emails created per MONTH	n/a	225	n/a	160	-29%	88	-45%
EMAILS SENT TO TSD	n/a	576	n/a	1940	237%	1125	-42%
New Listings in Directory resulted from Emails	n/a	24%	n/a	37%	54%	39%	5%
WEBSITE PAGEVIEWS	103053	117580	14%	167995	43%	172280	3%
Pageviews – Daily Average	283	323	14%	460	42%	472	3%
WEBSITE UNIQUE VISITORS	80880	93567	16%	104250	11%	88627	-15%
Unique Visitors – Daily Average	222	257	16%	285	11%	243	-15%
WEBSITE FIRST TIME VISITORS	47433	54851	16%	60088	10%	44698	-26%
First Time Visitors – Daily Average	130	151	16%	165	9%	123	-25%
WEBSITE RETURNING VISITORS	33447	38716	16%	44162	14%	43929	-1%
Returning Visitors – Daily Average	92	107	16%	121	13%	120	-1%
FOLLOWERS ON TWITTER	n/a	1960	n/a	2415	23%	2732	13%
COUNTRIES VISITED WEBSITE	n/a	208	n/a	213	2%	214	0%

(1) Scammer ID = Name (fake or just stolen) + Email

Let the numbers speak

- Compared to 2016, we've noticed in 2017:
 - 9% MORE NEW SCAMMERS' IDS (from 17% MORE in 2016)** (36 per month, 435 in the year);
 - 9% MORE NEW EMAILS (from 18% MORE in 2016)** (88 per month (LESS 45% from LESS 29%), 1055 in the year); **NOT all emails listed are related to CV theft scams; 95% (approx.) of the fake CVs circulated were just recycled, i.e., emailed either from known names and emails or from newly created emails;**



- 3% MORE WEBSITE PAGEVIEWS** (3% MORE on the daily average);
 - 15% LESS UNIQUE VISITORS TO OUR WEBSITE** (15% LESS on the daily average);
 - 26% LESS FIRST TIME VISITORS TO OUR WEBSITE** (25% LESS on the daily average);
 - 1% LESS RETURNING VISITORS TO OUR WEBSITE** (1% LESS on the daily average).
- We see all these numbers as very positive: NEW SCAMMERS' IDS and NEW EMAILS are going down consistently since 2014, and even the quasi-stagnation in the number of visits to our website (but with a 4% increase in the daily average) indicates that the busting of fake CV and false translators is now being done by the potential victims themselves. Remember: **once you know what to look for, a fake CV can be spotted in about 30 seconds.**
 - We continued emailing translation jobs posters about the high probability of their offers being answered by false translators with fake CVs. The inclusion of advisories in translation job posts warning about this risk and the need for a due diligence assessment of all applicants would be a great service to all in the Translation Community.
 - Scammers see (and use) translator portals as a cheap and fast way to get some sort of online footprint and "professional credibility". We regularly warn the major translator portals – ProZ, TranslatorsCafé and TranslationDirectory – about any profiles kept by scammers in their directories. Response to delete false profiles from TranslatorsCafé is always outstanding, and we wish it could be swifter from ProZ and, especially, from TranslationDirectory.
 - We expose all NEW FAKE IDS (NAME + EMAIL) FIRST on Twitter, because Google indexes tweets very quickly. In 2017, our **711 tweets** were shown 53 000 times (1770 per day). We also continued to aggressively block spammers, free riders, non-identified followers and "eggs", gratuitous namers and shamers and **those with protected tweets.**
 - Our **2016 Annual Report** has been viewed **16 148 times on Twitter** and downloaded **729 times from our website.**

New on our website in 2017

The fake CVs themselves are now online

First published on 28OCT2017 with 850 CVs, **the database now contains 2665 fake CVs** ready for viewing or downloading; more fake CVs will be published as they are processed or become available. We are grateful to all our volunteers that are making this possible.

Addresses and phone numbers (phony, of course) of false translators are also online

Now with **2619 entries**. Ever noticed those real-looking addresses, phone numbers and other ID data shown on the scammers' CVs? Do you know that 10 "translators" live in **Bad Oyenhausen, Germany**, all in different streets and postal codes? That **14 false translators include a genuine Belgium address on their fake CVs** (a verbatim copy of the victim's CV)? That 6 others live at **Avenue de la Bourdonnais (Paris)**! And that "Jennifer Allen" and "Jolene Marcus" share the same postal code, **13530 Trets France**, and the same exact (fake, of course) phone number: **33 (0)4.42.54.14.22**? That "Fabien Iglesias" uses this very "Canadian" phone number: **(819) 8827-11447**? That "Jenifer Kerns" and "Tina Helen" claim to have the same very "real" phone number: **1.293.802.6471 (area code 293 does not even exist)**? That this (fake) VAT number **DE202842983** is shared by 5 false translators? This list has been **downloaded 308 times.**

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So, how serious is the CV Scam in the Translation World?

Just two examples: a UK company sends us every single CV scam they get: 2173 fake CVs in 2017. A Belgium translator colleague received 893 fake CVs in 2017 alone. Bear also in mind that EVERY fake CV is emailed by the scammers to about 2000 to 3000 recipients. So, is it serious?

So, is this exposure of scammers working?

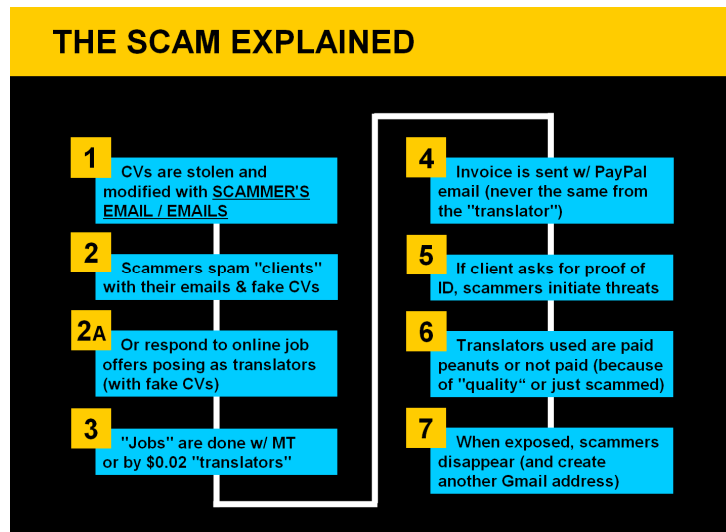
Clearly, yes: **new scammers' IDs and new emails are going down consistently since 2014**. And, as long as genuine translators and companies do not fuel the scammers' "business", it's going to work even more: no jobs and no money for scammers and impersonators. **Shamefully, we continued to see some translation companies, mainly based in Far East countries, working with or granting safe haven to false translators**. Do they even care about our warnings? And do their clients know how their documents are being handled? Also worrying are the numerous translators who regularly come forward to tell us all that they have fallen victims to all sorts of scams, from fake CVs to overpayment and mystery shopper scams. Where do these people live? In Wonderland? In the twilight zone? And what about the many others who never publicly share their losses to scams?

Acknowledgments

Our work and this Report would not have been possible without the support and collaboration of the many independent translators and translation companies who tirelessly share with us data, emails, fake CVs and other documents circulated by scammers, and more are joining this fight every day. Without your dedication – you know who you are – scammers would have a much easier life. A very special appreciation goes to our very determined champions:

M. and S. from Belgium;
M. from the Czech Republic;
A., F. and M. from France;
E. from Italy;
J. and T. from The Netherlands;
E. from Thailand;
M. and P. from the UK;
D. from Uruguay;
K. and X. from the US;

and many, many other for the many fake CV shared with us daily.



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