

# Federal authorities arrest identity theft ring leader after three years of investigation

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PHILADELPHIA - Federal authorities say they've broken up an identity theft ring involving two bank tellers and an insurance company employee.

After three years of investigating an identity theft operation that cost hundreds of people millions of dollars over a three-year period, federal authorities believe they have found their man.



The Justice Department believes 44-year-old Anthony Williams was the ringleader of an operation that involved 16 people. Several of the accused worked for banks and life insurance companies and allegedly sold customers' personal information to Williams.

Federal authorities are still rounding up defendants, but reports Williams is in custody on fraud charges in New Jersey.

"Williams was the one who actually compromised the accounts, contacted either the credit card issuer or the banks and got either credit cards issued in other people's names or checks sent to addresses he identified as the new address on the account," said assistant U.S. attorney Frank Costello.

Authorities said the alleged thieves went on a shopping spree with the victims' personal information, charging thousands of dollars at casinos and high-end retailers like Louis Vuitton, Nordstrom and Hugo Boss.

Learn more about how Entrust America can help protect individuals as well as business owners who are victims of identity theft with Entrust America's [Identity Theft Recovery Plans & Data Breach Plans](#).