

Internet users have recently become the target of web scams which have resulted in huge telephone bills. The following are two scenarios which have been discovered.

1: Internet users are enticed to download “free” software for games, contests, or porn material. Once the software is downloaded, it will turn down the volume on the modem so the user cannot hear the activity. The software then sends out a call to an international destination.

2: After downloading free software, the software is programmed to disconnect the users phones then reconnect them to a provider in a foreign country resulting in an extremely high phone bill. Users are unaware that this has happened until the phone bill arrives weeks later.

News reports suggest that some foreign governments make deals with companies running entertainment sites such as games, psychic hotlines, sex chat lines or other premium phone services to receive a portion of the revenue from the service. Some of the countries involved have been Moldova, Chad, Madagascar and Vanuatu.



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**South Dakota
Public Utilities Commission
500 E Capitol
Pierre SD 57501
Call 800-332-1782**



Surfer Scams

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PROTECTING YOURSELF:

⇒ Don't download anything from unfamiliar sites. A good safety rule is to only download from sites you know are reputable and secure. If you question a site, call the information number on the web site and talk to them.

If there is no contact information on the site, do not take the risk!

⇒ Advise anyone using your computer, including family and friends, to not download or launch free software.

⇒ Disconnect your modem when not using Internet.

⇒ Get an international block put on your line. There may be a one-time charge to obtain the block but this could save hundreds of dollars in the long run.

⇒ Install blocking or rating software that prevents a Web browser from accessing certain sites such as nocreditcard.com or sexnocard.com which are known to trigger international charges.

⇒ Always use common sense. If it sounds too good to be true, there are probably strings - and charges - attached.

