



# Security News

*An Informational Guide for Comlock Security Group Clients*

302 W. Katella Ave. Orange, California

**Security Cameras – Electronic Access Control – Alarm Systems – Key Control Systems - Locksmithing**

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### Comlock Quick Facts

- ♦ Specializing in providing locksmithing service to chain stores located within the Western United States.
- ♦ Offers a wide selection of safes for sale.
- ♦ Has multiple camera systems set up for customers to view the quality and features of equipment prior to making a purchase.

## **Don't settle for a false sense of security**

Mie-Yun Lee, Editorial Director, BuyerZone.com

Knowing that a mere deadbolt and window glass separates your office's assets from would-be burglars can be disconcerting. Thinking about the impact of such a loss on your business can be downright insomnia inducing. An alarm system can quickly bring you peace of mind.

Commercial security providers employ a variety of equipment to secure your business. Door/window sensors and glass break detectors help secure your office's vulnerable points, with motion sensors detecting movement within the office. Sirens and strobe lights alert neighbors and potentially scare off would-be burglars. And for those who work in higher-risk situations involving valuables like cash or jewels, a strategically placed holdup button that immediately calls for help can provide that extra security.

For an alarm system to work, you will also need to sign up for service. It can be basic monitoring, in which a central station alerts you or the police when an alarm has been triggered. Advanced options include opening/closing reports, which list when the system has been armed and disarmed, and notification if the phone line used to communicate the alarm system status to the central station has been cut. In addition, the forgetful will appreciate the ability to arm and disarm the system remotely and to be notified if the system is not armed by a certain time.

When considering systems, make sure the suggested proposal is adequate. To provide the lowest bid, some security companies may recommend a setup that fits your budget but is less successful at meeting your security needs. Obtaining a minimum of three bids can help ensure that you wind up with the optimal security design for your office, whether it is your existing one or new office space.

Also find out what the company will actually provide. Installation, service, and monitoring may not all be handled directly by that provider. Neither may bill, particularly if you're given "free" equipment where your contract may actually be sold to a financing company. Regardless of who owns your contract; check on service availability and turnaround. If an alarm won't arm, how quickly can someone get to your place of business to fix it?

Expect costs of \$500 to \$2,000 for equipment, plus a minimum \$25 per month for monitoring. Equipment costs will increase with the implementation of high-tech security devices like retina readers and fingerprint readers. Similarly, additional services like opening/closing reports will impact the monthly pricing.

A typical contract lasts from two to five years, with a shorter term typically available if you purchase the equipment. As always, ask about the contract terms. If you are not satisfied with the service, what happens to your contract? In addition, a lot of consolidation is going on in the industry; it can be helpful to understand the company's commitment to the industry or to have an understanding of what happens to your contract if the company sells or goes out of business. By checking on all these areas, you can ensure that you don't get left with a false sense of security.

### Quick tips

**Greater security.** Pricing for security devices like access control systems and closed circuit television monitoring have dropped and are more reasonable for small businesses.

**Biz insurance.** Discuss your security plans with your insurance broker. Improvements may translate into lower insurance premiums.

**Open systems.** If you are purchasing equipment, check if it is compatible with that of other providers. That way, if you need to switch security companies, you won't have to purchase new equipment.

## The Evolution of Christmas Ornaments

Things have come a long way since a Christmas ornament was likely to be just a ball hung by the window, or later on a Christmas tree.

Historians believe that this original Christmas decoration descended from a witch ball. The original purpose of a witch ball was to fend off evil spirits. However, being traditionally glass made, these balls were also very decorative, and people started to see their use for decorating the home. They were great decorations, so they started to move around the house a bit, and the original green color was varied as time went on. Over the centuries they were made in different colors and sizes, and even the material from which they were made started to be varied.

Also by Victorian times, it became fashionable to decorate the home for Christmas, so Christmas ornaments started to take hold in Victorian homes. Less concerned about evil spirits, people looked at ornaments as a festive display, a symbol of celebration. Instead of warding off evil spirits, they started to accompany a surge in other spirits, most notably brandy and whisky.

From Victorian times onwards the range has increased steadily. The decorations have been hung in different places too: the mantle, windows, and front door being favorites, as well as the Christmas tree, but there is really no restriction where to hang Christmas ornaments these days. Inside, outside, it no longer seems to matter.



A lot of the increase in the use of Christmas decorations has come from the desire to impress friends, neighbors and family with the decorative display, as well, of course, for one's own enjoyment.

The Christmas ball that was supposed to have been derived from the witch ball, is still a clear favorite of the Christmas ornaments used to decorate the Christmas tree. Over the years Christmas tree balls have been designed in a great variety of colors and finish, with an increasing variety of sparkling balls.

Another favorite for Christmas decorations nowadays are the colored fairy lights. Flashing colored lights are often a feature of outside Christmas ornament displays, as well as for the tree and other places inside the house. It also became quite normal in the 20th century to hang a new type of Christmas ornament on a tree; some sort of food, especially chocolate, that would be covered with a colorful, shiny paper

wrapping to add a festive decorative effect. On top of the Christmas tree, a fairy has been a popular adornment over the years, but that has been changing in recent decades, and other Christmas ornaments often now take pride of place at the pinnacle.

As with so many things over the last hundred years, Christmas decorations have just got bigger and better, as well as with a greater variety. Now, in some localities, you will get local communities where house owners go to great lengths to decorate the outside of their homes with giant Christmas ornaments and lighting displays. Some such localities become well known simply for their Christmas display. Even here in the Philippines, some localities become well known in the Christmas season for their exuberant Christmas ornament displays.

For most of us, however, Christmas ornaments are about decorating our own little piece of territory to make Christmas a special occasion for the family, and it is unlikely that that will ever change.

This [Christmas Ornament](#) article was written by Roy Thomsitt, owner of the Xmas ornament website, and <http://www.gifts-for-xmas.com>

Source: <http://www.websition.com/>

## Common Work at Home Scams

Scams are everywhere online. Just about everywhere you go online you will find ads for so-called "easy and fast money" jobs. Anything that promises "easy money" or "big bucks part time" is full of it. Don't waste your time on something that promises fast and easy money because it's not going to happen.

Let's delve into the scams out there and then talk about resources you can use to research a company!

Common work at home scams to avoid

**Typing "Jobs"** - you can type in typing jobs in any major search engine and you'll pull up many of these so-called "jobs" typing for "easy" money. Most of the time you will pay a fee, and then they will send you information about how to place ads in local papers to "sell" this so-called job to others. This simply is not a "job" and it's nearly impossible to make a decent income with this. They post testimonials that are either made up or of successful internet marketers in order to persuade you into believing this is a great "job" for you.



**Envelope Stuffing** - I'm sure you've seen this one everywhere and might have fallen for it. I sure did. Not once, but twice! I thought, "Well the first company was just a scam but this one looks legit" and, yes, I was wrong. I got scammed by this little sucker twice! Please do not fall for this tempting "job". What you'll probably receive (what happened to me) for your "small fee" (which is usually how its worded) is a letter telling you to place that same "envelope-stuffing" ad in newspapers, magazines, online sites and anywhere else you can get your ad. The only way you will earn money is to pass on this scam to other moms who desperately want to work at home. There's no stuffing of envelopes involved. You simply pass on this scam to others and get paid by charging a fee...the same way it happened to you. Please don't fall for this HUGE waste of time and please don't pass this scam on to others.

**Assembly/Crafting Scams**- If you want to make money with assembly or crafting your best bet is to start your own business and sell your work online, locally and at fairs. The so-called jobs online for assembly or crafts are scams. Usually you will be required to buy supplies or a kit and then, after days or weeks of work, you would send in your work for payment. What usually happens is your work supposedly didn't meet the standards they have and they will either send it back for you to fix or they will keep it and not pay you. If you get the chance to "fix it" and send it back you'll again be told it didn't meet the standard. It's a nasty on going cycle and the end result is that you've wasted your hard earned money on the "kit" and you've wasted your valuable time for nothing.

**Processing Government Refunds-** Boy this one sounds pretty interesting huh? Yet another scam for you to avoid! What's the meat of this scam? Basically you'll see ads that you can earn \$500 to \$1500 a week processing 3rd party government refunds via your computer. You are told that you'll get a list of people who might be homeowners and might be entitled to a refund by HUD. They make you pay up to \$300 (or even more) for this list. What you'll do is contact these people and try to get them to share the refund with you, BUT what they fail to tell you is these people can get refunds FREE by calling HUD themselves.

So, if you go through this list and find a few people owed a refund, phone them up and tell them why you're calling, one of three things will happen:

1. They will hang up on you
2. They'll listen to you, and then tell you that they're going to research this themselves. Doing so they will find out they don't need you and can get the refund on their own. Therefore you make nothing.
3. You find someone who actually takes you up on your offer. You "help" them get the refund they could have done on their own and you collect your portion. You've basically scammed that person out of all the money owed to them by withholding the fact that they can do this on their own and collect all the money.

Just stay away from this - it's bad for all concerned. And in fact, the HUD site warns people of these so-called "tracers" ... that the public can collect a refund without a "tracer."

**Chain Letters-** This usually guarantees you to earn large amounts of money with a one time small investment. (See the trend? Scams ALWAYS ask you for money.) The typical chain letter scheme usually requires you to mail the chain letter, along with a specified amount of money to six (or more) people. And then they must do the same. There just simply aren't enough people in the world to make this worth your time. AND, it's illegal! The post office says that chain letters are a form of unauthorized lottery and may violate federal mail fraud laws. They also warn not to waste your money! Read more about this at US Postal Service Inspection Services



**Medical Claims Billing-** I'm sure you've seen this everywhere and it may have caught your eye. This one caught my eye, but I was fortunate enough to meet someone who told me to stay away. The ad will usually state you can make tons of money part time doing "Medical Billing/ Claims Processing. The fee for the software and training can be as high as \$7500 or even more. You supposedly get a list of doctors and sample letters in order to gain clients. Although this isn't necessarily the typical scam, it's not as easy (or possible) as they claim it to be. If you want to do this I would take a local class on Medical Billing (or an accredited online school) and then get an offline job doing this...then build your client list and make it home-based.

What have we learned from the examples above? If you have to pay a fee, it's a scam, rip off or just not worth your time! So stay away from the above scams.

I would also like to discuss some common red flags to look for with any job offer.

They ask a fee - you should NEVER pay for a job

They claim it's easy work - a real job is never easy

They claim you can earn great money for little work - a real job will never claim you can make riches with little to no work.

They have testimonials about the "job" - a real job offer isn't going to need testimonials posted. Why would they? If they aren't trying to sell something to you, then they won't need to convince you that it's worth your time.

If it says "no kits, no fee's, not MLM...etc." - a real job isn't going to post that in their job ad. If you find a "job" advertised like that you can guarantee it's a business opportunity or outright scam.

The words "No Experience Necessary" - although there are some jobs out there that don't require experience they often won't make that a big part of their ad (or at all) and usually you find this on scam ads.

A 900 number to call for more information - any legitimate company will call you or provide you with an 800 number. If they are a smaller company and don't have an 800 number, then if you inform them you don't wish to use your long distance to call them, they will usually call you.

Resources-

The Better Business Bureau  
Web Assured ("Watch List" to see complaints on companies)  
The Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Response Center  
Scambusters - newsletter you can join too  
The National Fraud Information Center

Nell Taliercio is the owner of a leading work at home mom resource website packed full of unique information for the telecommuter, business owner and virtual assistant.

Visit <http://www.mommysplace.net> today!

Source: <http://www.websition.com/>

## Choosing an online Degree

The Internet has revolutionized the education system. Colleges, Universities, as well as secondary high schools are now equipped to offer students or potential students the opportunity to study at their own leisure. Whether you want to earn your degree in Science, Sociology, Languages, Education, Economics, you can probably earn it online. Search the Internet for a university that offers your discipline by studying online. The positive aspect of studying online is the application process can be done quickly by submitting it online.



The freedom to have full or part-time employment, travel, or raise your children at home is a comfort and relief to many who want a higher education. In addition to the many freedoms, the ability to complete assignments or projects at one's own leisure is helpful for those who are struggling and need extra time and assistance. Earning your degree, diploma or certificate online is also accessible to those with disabilities, due to the various formats the courses can be given.

If one requires extra assistance with formatting or technical support, staff is available to assist to insure complete accessibility, so everyone has equal education opportunities. Although this is revolutionary, one should be cautious, and research the online facility before paying tuition.

What should one be cautious of when he or she desires to improve their education online? Earn a college degree in thirty days scheme sounds appealing, but is not legitimate. Achieving higher education of any kind takes time, usually about one to three year's minimum. Companies that promise their buyer's degrees, diplomas or certification within thirty days usually have no affiliation or accredited courses with international universities, colleges or high schools.

Inquire at your local University about the company you see that is promising these miraculous degrees and diplomas. If the student services counselor has no knowledge of this company, chances are it is just a scam to take your money. Let the student counselor help you find a legitimate university that offers online degrees, certificates, or diplomas.

Now that you have the tools and knowledge on researching and choosing the right online University, the next step is to contact them by telephone. Most universities that offer courses online have a toll-free number for inquiries, and course catalogue. When phoning for the first time, ask about extra services, methods of payment, and application procedures.

In addition to the research, one can check out the website, and the online frequently asked questions to find answers to inquiries about the school, college or university. Once you have completed your research, inquiries and the application, it is time to experience a rewarding, challenging, and life changing opportunity. Online education allows those who never had the chance before this accepted method of education, to earn a degree, diploma, or certificate without changing their employment or personal schedule.

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## Humor, Can't live without it!

Answering the phone, the priest was surprised to hear the caller introduce herself as an IRS auditor.

But we do not pay taxes, the priest said. It isn't you, Father, it's one of your parishioner, Sean McCullough. He indicates on his tax return that he gave a donation of \$15,000 to the church last year. Is this, in fact, the truth?

The priest smiled broadly. The check hasn't arrived yet, but I'm sure I'll have it when I remind dear Sean.

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Q: How many Microsoft Engineers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None. They just change the standard to DARK.

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A man hasn't been feeling well, so he goes to his doctor for a complete checkup. Afterward, the doctor comes out with the results.

"I'm afraid I have some very bad news," the doctor says. "You're dying, and you don't have much time left."

"Oh, that's terrible!" says the man. "Give it to me straight, Doc. How long have I got?"

"Ten," the doctor says sadly.

"Ten?" the man asks. "Ten what? Months? Weeks? What?!"

"Nine..."

# Have a safe and happy New Year!