

## **International online purchase fraud: Investigation into disruption possibilities**

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Open University of the Netherlands Buying and selling online is usually done to full satisfaction of all parties. However, in the event of online purchase fraud, a victim transfers money for a product or service, without receiving it. This study focusses on international online purchase fraud, which means that victims have transferred money abroad. For the police and their partners, the international component provides a serious obstacle in investigating this type of crime. The goal of this study is to gain more insight into this specific form of online fraud and, on that basis, to provide insight into the possibilities of combating this type of crime, other than with police investigation. To map the attack strategies of international online purchasing fraud, 150 police reports were analyzed. In addition, twenty semi-structured interviews with victims were conducted. Finally, opportunities for disrupting purchasing fraud have been identified based on interviews with sixteen experts and a brainstorming session with an advisory committee. Four crime scripts are distinguished. The identified disruption possibilities of international online purchasing fraud are framed in accordance with the framework for situational crime prevention. Three strategies are proposed that seem the most promising to disrupt online purchasing fraud from abroad.