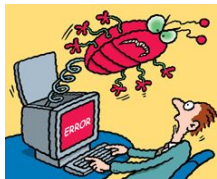


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## Security Issues Lead to a Decrease of Internet Usage

### *A Consumer Reports WebWatch survey*

The number of US Internet users who have decided spending less time online or have given up completely purchasing good from online stores has increased up to a third of the total American consumers. This is the direct consequence of always fearing greater perils online, not only worms and viruses (like in the good old days), but also identity theft and online fraud. Abstinence seems to be the best protection for this problem also...The survey by Consumer Reports WebWatch proves that Internet users are less trustful of websites and have been changing their behavior because of what they see as online threats. According to the study, 86 percent have made at least one change in their online behavior, while 80% said they were at least "somehow concerned" someone could steal their identity from personal information on the Internet. The most relevant fact of all is that the Internet usage has dropped extensively due to security fears, 30 percent of the interviewed users say they have reduced their overall use of the Internet. The Web should take the form of a scary place where strange and dangerous things happen and there is little if no protection at all against them. Security companies should increase their efforts to insure better connectivity and browsing conditions. However, Americans have chosen the easiest solution and quit using the Web. That's one way of dealing with this situation...