

## DON'T be like Warren Buffett!

Excerpt from [Personal Credit](#)

The second richest man in the U.S. never bothered to check his credit report. Why bother when you have as much money as he does? When the Berkshire Hathaway CEO recently checked his credit report he found his score was *below* the U.S. average. Further checking revealed an imposter had stolen his identity and defaulted on 23 payments.

A 2004 report found 25% of credit reports contain serious errors. Consumers are now allowed one free copy of their credit report each year under federal law. You can get a credit report from all three major credit reporting agencies at once (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion). Rather than get all three at once you might consider getting one from a different credit agency every four months to help monitor your credit all year long. The free credit reports can be requested

- \* online at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)
- \* or by calling toll free to (877) 322-8228
- \* or by writing to:  
Annual Credit Report Request Service  
PO Box 105283  
Atlanta, GA 30348-5283

Credit scores cost additional, usually under \$10.

Be careful of several fee-based credit reporting web sites with similar names that promise free copies of your credit report but only if you enroll in a monthly credit monitoring service -- for a large fee.