	2000	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**
Identity Theft Complaints	31,117	86,198	161,819	215,177
Fraud Complaints	107,890	133,891	218,284	327,479
Total	139,007	220,089	380,103	542,656

	2004	**2005**	**2006**
Identity Theft Complaints	246,882	255,613	246,035
Fraud Complaints	410,709	437,906	428,319
Total	659,595	695,524	676,360

Table 5.11: Identity theft and fraud complaints reported to the US Federal Trade Commission Consumer Sentinel system. Part of the increase from year to year is due to the growing awareness and use of the system. Source: Federal Trade Commission.

hand, by the very nature of the system, there will be more and more opportunities for misuse and correcting data will become more and more difficult.

5.12 Creating Digital Data

The easiest way to think about digital data is that it is anything that is comprised of bits and that fills up a hard disk. Originally, computers were primarily used for scientific computation and digital data consisted mainly of numerical data that was generated by mathematical computations running on the computers.

Later, as businesses began to use computers also, the type of digital data computers worked with began to change. Companies were primarily interested in working with data about their customers, suppliers, and internal business processes. Digital data was created either manually, such as when a new employee was hired and the employee's address and salary were manually entered, or a memo or email was