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Internet security concerns are growing as the holiday shopping season picks up online with Cyber Monday. Since many shoppers are moving to the World Wide Web to handle their Christmas lists, cybercriminals are, too, according to eScan COO Rohini Sonawane.

"The holiday season is not always 'the most wonderful time of year' when it comes to e-threats – there's more online activity with many new shoppers and that can bring out the worst in the cybercriminal community," Sonawane said. "The recent launch of our eScan 11 security suite was focused on addressing the growing base of online users as well as the new generation of e-threats, and as we've learned from past years, the holidays are open season for these new and more sophisticated cybercrime and Internet attacks."

To prepare, Sonawane recommends that online shoppers verify the currency of their security data, making sure that the most recent updates have been applied. He also recommends purchasing a virtual keyboard, which makes it more difficult for keystroke loggers to steal credit card data.

Secure websites--those marked "https" as opposed to "http"--will also keep the predators at bay. Sonawane recommends avoiding any Internet shopping site with which you're not familiar. The use of virtual credit cards, or temporary numbers issued by credit card providers, also prevents data from being exploited by predators.

What are your plans for the holiday shopping season? Do you still prefer brushing shoulders with fellow shoppers and stumbling in to great or unexpected deals, or are you all virtual? Will the Internet or the brick-and-mortar store be your home for Christmas shopping? If online, what security measures would you suggest taking before sending out credit card data? Share your thoughts with us below.