

## CheckMEND Background and Key Facts

### About CheckMEND

Headquartered in Gloucestershire, UK, CheckMEND ([www.checkmend.com](http://www.checkmend.com)) is a division of Recipero Limited. The privately held company was founded in 2000. Since its start, Recipero has been pioneering Web-based services that help combat the cybercrime of buying and selling stolen second hand and counterfeit goods. The CheckMEND service, which was launched in 2006 in the UK, was developed in collaboration with law enforcement to address the impact on daily lives associated with the buying and selling of stolen goods via auction sites such as eBay. The service is endorsed and used by law enforcement and leading organizations worldwide. In the UK, it is recommended by eBay when buying second hand cellular phones.

### How CheckMEND Works

A consumer-friendly and easy-to-use online service, already well established in Europe, CheckMEND provides a platform for identifying serial numbered stolen and counterfeit goods offered on the Internet. CheckMEND offers consumers and businesses nationwide safe, fast, easy and very affordable checks against the world's largest publicly available database of more than 100 million records of information that may be relevant to any prospective purchaser. [View the demo.](#)

A search on [CheckMEND](#) costs just \$2.99, with advantageous pricing when multiple checks are made. When users opt to conduct several checks to validate more than one item, they benefit from the convenience of a single credit card transaction for no additional cost. For more information, visit [www.checkmend.com](http://www.checkmend.com). Those using the online system will receive a printable certificate of authenticity, a copy of which is held on the CheckMEND system. Every check includes a printable comprehensive history report showing all the information available on the system. [View sample report.](#) This includes whether it is registered as stolen, had its identity changed, or has been subject to an insurance claim for damage or loss. Anyone checking a cellular phone also can verify whether the phone has been disabled by network carriers worldwide. CheckMEND is particularly relevant for mobile devices as they top the list for items sold via online auction sites.

The CheckMEND system continually acquires data in real time on all aspects of personal property ownership and associated criminality from feeds worldwide. At an average rate of more than 150,000 records a week, it is the most comprehensive system of its kind.

### What Users Say About CheckMEND

"In the eyes of the law, ignorance has never been bliss. It is conceivable that should the seller, auction house, buyer or repairer be found in possession of a stolen item, then, at the very least, the item could be confiscated. But, at worst, they could potentially be charged with handling stolen goods. The information to check and perform due diligence on these types of items is now available via CheckMEND."

**Commander Steve Allen, head of the violent crime directorate at the Metropolitan Police Scotland Yard**

"We recommend taking the following steps when listing your mobile: To reassure buyers that your mobile phone is legitimate, the police recommend that you get a CheckMEND certificate. CheckMEND is a database of lost and stolen property, and a certificate will show that you have verified that the item you are selling is not stolen. There is a small fee for this service."

**ebay.co.uk posted review, 2008**

“So far, the system has saved us considerably more than the cost of the service, and we would recommend it to anyone buying, selling or exchanging second hand goods.”

**Sam Millen, Loss Prevention Manager, CeX**

### **Why CheckMEND: Key Facts and Trends in Cybercrime**

- Cybercrime costs the US \$4 billion a year
- US citizens lost \$239 million in various Internet-based fraud schemes, up from \$198 million in 2006
- The credit crunch is leading more people to save money and buying secondhand goods to save money. Kijiji.com has confirmed a 600-percent rise in listings for cameras, phones and computers all of which are checkable on CheckMEND
- Over 1 million checks are made every month against the CheckMEND data
- Over 10 million checks have been made over the last 18 months
- There are more than 100 million records of information on CheckMEND including 30 million stolen items with a value of more than \$3 billion and 11 million records of handsets that have been disabled by net work carriers worldwide with a value of over \$1 billion dollars
- There are approximately 1.4 million registered users on Immobilize.net, CheckMEND's sister site, in the US who have reported approximately 700,000 stolen items including cellular phones, lap tops, iPods, bikes, cameras – increasing on a daily basis

### **Why CheckMEND: Benefits for Buyers and Sellers**

#### **For the Buyer...**

- Avoid the fall-out should the purchase prove to be stolen
- Protect investments; don't pay top price for something which does not work as is, or, or is not as advertised
- Guard against potential prosecution for handling/possessing stolen goods

#### **For the Seller...**

- Validate that items for sale are legitimate
- Use the validation and online certificate as a USP when selling
- Proof of being a reliable supplier of second hand goods
- Give customers and potential customers peace of mind about their transaction
- Obtain up to an 8 percent premium on the sale price with CheckMEND validation

### **Management**

Adrian Portlock is the founder and CEO of CheckMEND. An entrepreneur for nearly 25 years, Portlock's career started in the hospitality industry. As founder of Recipero, Portlock directs sales and marketing, strategic planning and product pipeline development.