



Identifying Internet Scams



The internet has become an integral part of our daily lives, but it comes with its own risks. Scams can take a variety of forms and scammers are constantly devising new tactics to try to deceive people.

Common Online Scams

An online scam is a deceptive scheme or trick aimed at defrauding an individual or group of their money and/or personal information using the internet. Here are just a few examples:



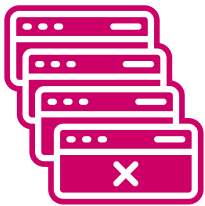
Phishing

Deceptive emails or messages that appear to be from a well-known source or reputable organization asking for personal and/or financial information.



Charity Fraud

Urgent requests for donations made via email, phone, or text message for fraudulent non-profit organizations



Tech Support Scams

Unsolicited calls, emails, or pop-up messages claiming to be from tech support, asking for access to your computer.



Lottery Scams

Scammers falsely message people stating that they have won a lottery or sweepstakes to obtain personal or financial information.



Online Shopping Scams

Fraudulent websites and online social media sellers that never deliver purchased items or services.



Government Imposter Scams

Scammers pretend to be part of government organizations such as the IRS or Social Security in order to obtain personal and/or financial information.

Look Out for These Warning Signs

To identify a potential scam, keep a look out for these warning signs:

- **Requests for Personal or Financial information:** Unsolicited requests for your sensitive personal information such as developing when not sent from a known or trusted source
- **Payment Requests:** Requests to pay for items, services, etc. usually in advance via an unusual method like gift cards, cryptocurrency, or money wires.
- **High Pressure Tactics:** Being pressured to act quickly before you have time to think by claiming something is a limited time offer or by creating a sense of urgency.
- **Poor grammar or spelling:** Emails, social media messages, etc. that are part of a scam may contain obvious spelling errors, unusual words, or grammatical mistakes.
- **Scare Tactics:** You may be threatened with legal action, account suspension, or other negative consequences if you don't act immediately.