

Internet Fraud

The vast majority of people own a smartphone or can use a computer, and the internet has become integrated into most areas of life. There are now online methods for paying bills, buying goods, and sending money. However, with the benefits of ease of use has come the potential for criminals to steal and commit fraud, often with sophisticated schemes.

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Such schemes often start through social media sites. Strangers introduce themselves, saying that they are trying to make friends, or they may pretend to be someone you know or from a company you already trust. Once they have gained your confidence, they ask for money or information. This may involve buying gifts, sending money to help someone in trouble, or simply providing your bank account number, which they then use to steal money from your account. But there is one common thread: once you have sent money, you will never get it back. They may disappear or they may say there has been a problem and more money needs to be sent. These tricks can result in people losing hundreds of millions or even billions.

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What lies might someone tell to get you to send them money or information?

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What might happen once you have sent a criminal money?

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What can you do to protect yourself against online fraud?