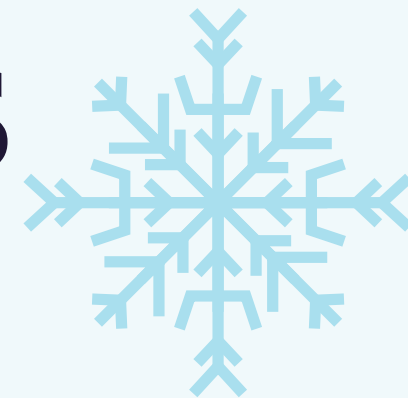




Five Holiday Scams to Look Out For



Black Friday/ Cyber Monday Specials

If a “special offer” sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Never click on links in emails or popups with very deep discount offers.

Bogus Shipping Notices

You may receive emails or text messages that look like they are from UPS, FedEx or other shipping companies saying that your package has a problem or could not be delivered. Many of these messages are phishing attacks that want you to click on unsafe links and attachments.

Holiday Refund Scams

These emails seem to come from retail or e-commerce companies claiming there’s a “wrong transaction” and prompting you to click on a refund link. But when you do, any personal information you enter will be sold to cyber criminals.

Phishing on the Dark Side

A new phishing email promises movie tickets for the highly-anticipated film, “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” – but beware, the email is a phishing attack.



Free Vouchers or Gift Cards

Don’t fall for offers or social media posts that promise deeply-discounted or free vouchers and gift cards – it’s a popular holiday scam.

If you believe that you are the victim of a holiday-themed scam, here’s how you can protect yourself and prevent further loss or potential fraud:

- File a complaint with the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3): [ic3.gov](https://www.ic3.gov)
- Report the attack to the police and file a report.
- Report suspected identity theft to the Federal Trade Commission on their website: [identitytheft.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/identitytheft)
- Contact your financial institution immediately and close any accounts that may have been compromised. Watch for unusual charges to your account.
- Immediately change any passwords you might have revealed and do not use that password in the future. Avoid reusing passwords on multiple sites.