

Stop Scammers from Cashing In



There's no doubt about it: cybersecurity threats are real. Now more than ever, individuals are relying on online banking and mobile payment services to monitor their finances and make transactions. While the convenience may be unmatched, scammers are continually looking for ways to take advantage of those who utilize these services. Protect your hard-earned money by following these tips.

Check your credit report.

By checking your credit report, you can monitor changes in your credit and look for signs of fraud. Federal law states you have the right to receive one free credit report every 12 months from each of the national credit reporting agencies – including Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. AnnualCreditReport.com is the official site to get your free annual credit report. Complete this all at once or receive one report for each agency at different points throughout the year.

Only share information and send money to people you know.

As less people carry around cash, the demand for mobile payment services seems to be increasing by the day. While fast and convenient, it also comes with its risks. It's important to know who you're sending money to and sharing information with. Some mobile payment services have additional security measures in place, such as identifying the last four digits of a recipient's phone number. Research what your mobile payment service offers and utilize their free tools.

Pay attention to correspondences from your credit and financial institutions.

Credit and financial institutions provide various options for contacting you. Whether that be through mail, email, text or phone, it's important to pay attention to the content of the correspondence. If you ever doubt the legitimacy of a correspondence, don't be afraid to call your provider, especially before you open an email or text with attachments and links. It's better to be safe than sorry!

Take these extra steps to keep your money safe. If you're looking for additional tips to protect your finances, read the [Protecting Your Finances](#) article from my previous quarter's newsletter.

[Protecting Your Finances](#)

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