



HOLIDAY SECURITY GUIDE

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS A PRIME TIME FOR HACKERS TO EXPLOIT USERS AS THEY PURCHASE GIFTS FOR THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. TO HELP TAKE THE PROPER PRECAUTIONS, COMPASS HAS DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING GUIDE AS A REFERENCE THROUGHOUT THE SEASON:

BEWARE OF HOLIDAY SCAMS:

- Be selective about the information you exchange for discounts/deals.
- Prevent 'malvertising' by updating browsers and enabling ad blocking software.
- If you are donating, be sure it goes to a deserving cause! Scammers prey on people's holiday generosity by setting up bogus accounts or replicating legitimate charity sites to steal money and credentials.
- If an offer is too good to be true, it probably is so do not engage with it.
- When possible, elect to have your package held at the nearest pick-up facility to avoid "porch pirating."
- Be wary of apps that impersonate well-known retailers. Red flags to look out for are misspelled words in the description and recent creation dates.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR SENSITIVE INFORMATION:

- Do not buy from websites you have not heard of.
- Make sure the websites you are on are secure. Look for HTTPS rather than HTTP in the address bar.
- Designate a single card for any credit transactions to monitor suspicious activity.
- Create an email address specifically for any shopping sites to limit the likelihood of your information being compromised if one of your online retailers experiences a data breach.

WHAT TO AVOID WHILE TRAVELING:

- Do not use untrusted or unknown Wi-Fi hotspots, especially to make online purchases.
- Be cautious of where you use debit cards because they are directly linked to your bank account. Do not use debit cards at stores without a chip card reader.
- Common holiday rental scams involve rogue "landlords" renting properties that are not theirs to rent, frequently found on sites like Airbnb and HomeAway.

SECURITY OF POPULAR ONLINE RETAILERS

MOST SECURE E-RETAILERS

- QVC
- APPLE
- VICTORIA'S SECRET
- NEIMAN MARCUS
- BEST BUY

LEAST SECURE E-RETAILERS

- AMAZON
- WALMART
- WAYFAIR
- NIKE
- SEARS

(LastPass)

BLACK FRIDAY & CYBER MONDAY HAVE BECOME PRIME TARGETS FOR CYBERCRIMINALS TO CREATE SCAMS THAT LURE UNSUSPECTING VICTIMS.