Staying Safe from Scams & Protecting Your Information

Why this Matters?

Scams are increasing every year

Anyone can be targeted

Goal: Stay informed, not scared

Statistic: “Older adults reported losing $2.4 billion to scams in 2024” -According to Federal trade commissions (link)



What is a Scam?

A scam = tricking you into giving:

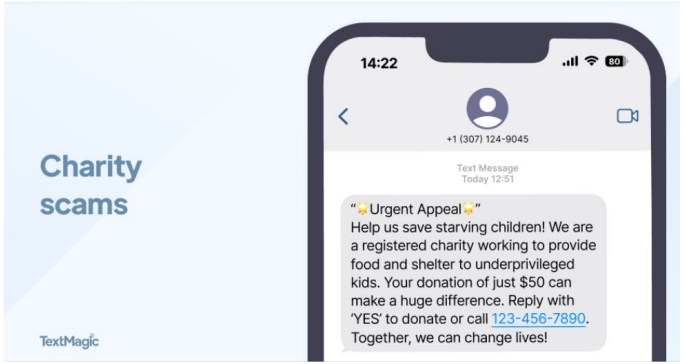
- Money
- Personal information

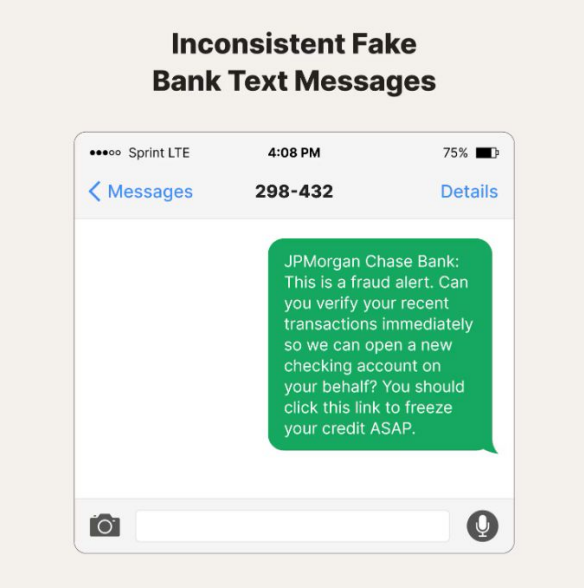
They use:

- Urgency
- Fear
- Trust

The biggest target group?

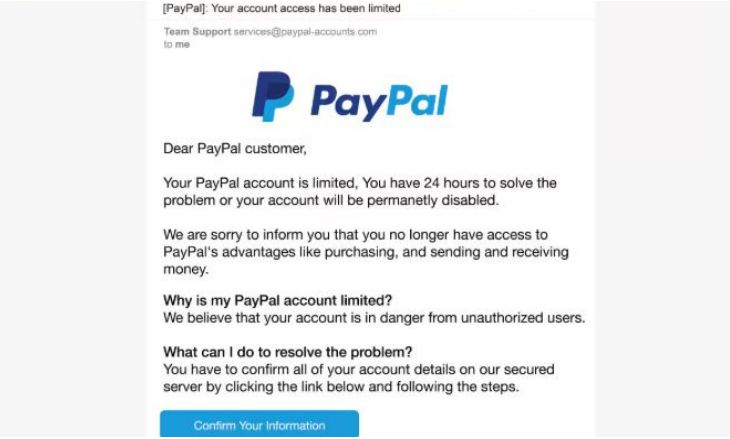
- People over the age of 60

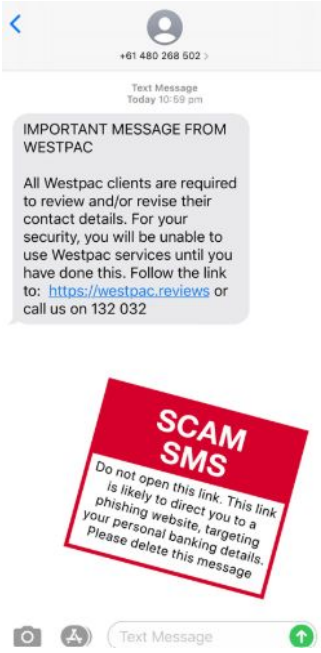


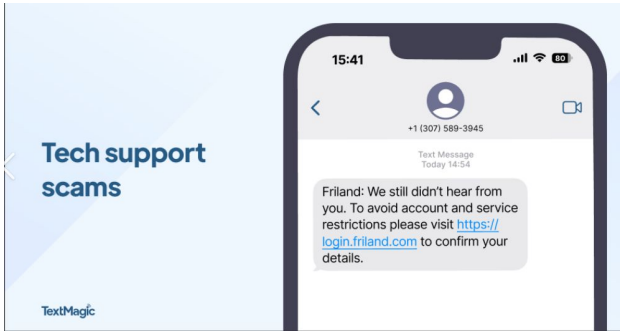


Most Common Type of Scams

- Phone scams
- Text scams
- Email scams
- Tech support scams
- Investment scams







So what should we look for in text scams?

“Act now!” / urgency

Unknown sender

Strange links or grammar errors

Requests for:

- Passwords
- Social Security
- Gift cards
- Money



Phone Call Scams

Scammers on these class pretend to be:

- IRS
- Social Security
- Bank

And they can say things like:

- “You owe money”
- “You’ll be arrested”

Main Takeaway: Government agencies will never call you asking for payment or threatening you



TV & Smart Device Scams

- Fake messages on TV:
  - “Virus detected”
  - “Call support”

Rules:

- Do NOT call the number
- Only use official apps



Main Takeaway: Your TV cannot get a virus like that. These messages are designed to scare you.

How to Stay Safe

- Strong passwords
- Don’t share personal info
- Keep devices updated
- Use 2-step verification
- Pay attention to new number texts



If You Ever Get Scammed

- Contact your bank immediately
- Report: reportfraud.ftc.gov
- Tell someone you trust



Key Takeaways

- Scammers use urgency
- You are in control
- When in doubt → pause



Questions?

