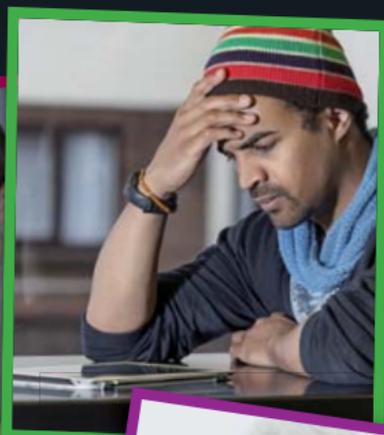


Whoever you are,
whatever you do...
YOU could be a victim
of online crime.



www.getsafeonline.org



Online crime is a growing threat, but you can take steps to protect yourself.



Hi, I'm Aaron,
I'm 25 and
I'm a victim of
a ticket scam

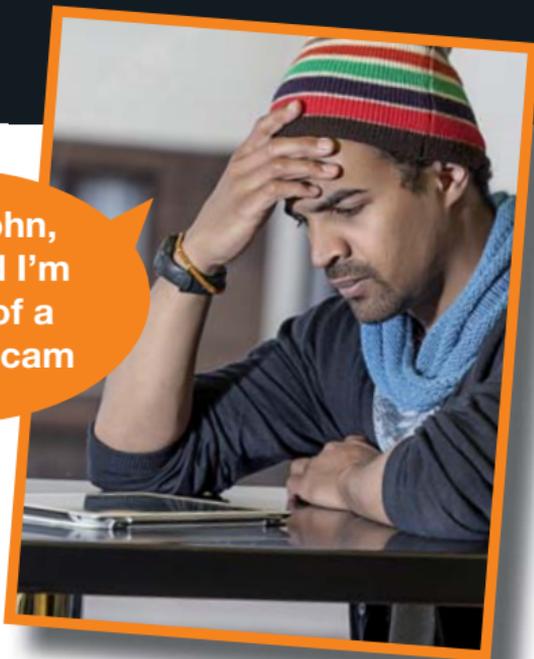
Football ticket scam

Manchester City fan Aaron was desperate to get hold of two tickets for an away game the approaching weekend. He posted a message on City's fan site 'Bluemoon', and received an offer of two tickets for £40 each, assuming it to be genuine as it was the fan site. Because of the short time before the game, the seller told Aaron that he would put the tickets in the post that evening in exchange for the £80 (plus postage) being transferred to his bank account.

On the Friday, the tickets had not arrived – and it was then that Aaron spotted some tweets from fellow fans warning that they had been conned, by a man with the same name. Aaron immediately realised that he too had been the victim of a confidence trick and reported it to the police and Action Fraud. He also contacted his bank, but was told that the money was not retrievable as it had been transferred directly into the fraudster's bank account.

The internet has made it easier for you to be at risk from online crime, such as scam emails or websites, viruses, counterfeit goods and identity theft. Aaron, John, Gary and Lynda became victims of online crime, here are their stories...

Hi, I'm John,
I'm 32 and I'm
a victim of a
phishing scam



Phishing email scam

John received an email from his bank telling him that he needed to reactivate his current account. It looked the same as every other email he'd ever received from his bank, and it was from a bank email address. He clicked on the link in the email, which took him to a website where he was told that his account would be reactivated if he entered his account name, account number, sort code, date of birth, PIN and memorable fact, which he proceeded to do.

Three days later, John went into online banking to pay a bill, and was horrified to see that his account – which had been in credit by around £2,500 – had been emptied in one transaction. Fraudsters had collected his confidential details on their bogus website and accessed his account as if it were their own.

Get some free expert advice on how to recognise online crime and don't be a victim at www.getsafeonline.org



Hi, I'm Gary, I'm 63 and I'm a victim of a FaceBay scam

FaceBay scam

Gary, a building services engineer from Worcestershire, saw a number of personalised items advertised on FaceBay from various sellers, and decided to buy them as gifts for his grandchildren. One item was a personalised rug for £35. The seller requested payment by bank transfer and told Gary that the rug would arrive in seven to 14 days.

After two and a half weeks, when the rug had not arrived, Gary contacted the seller via Facebook to chase delivery, he ended up exchanging messages every couple of days, and it was when the excuses for non-arrival were inconsistent that he suspected a fraud. He also found a number of angry comments on Facebook about people who had suffered the same fate.

Gary did not receive his £35 back.

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Hi, I'm Lynda, I'm 27 and I'm a victim of a holiday scam

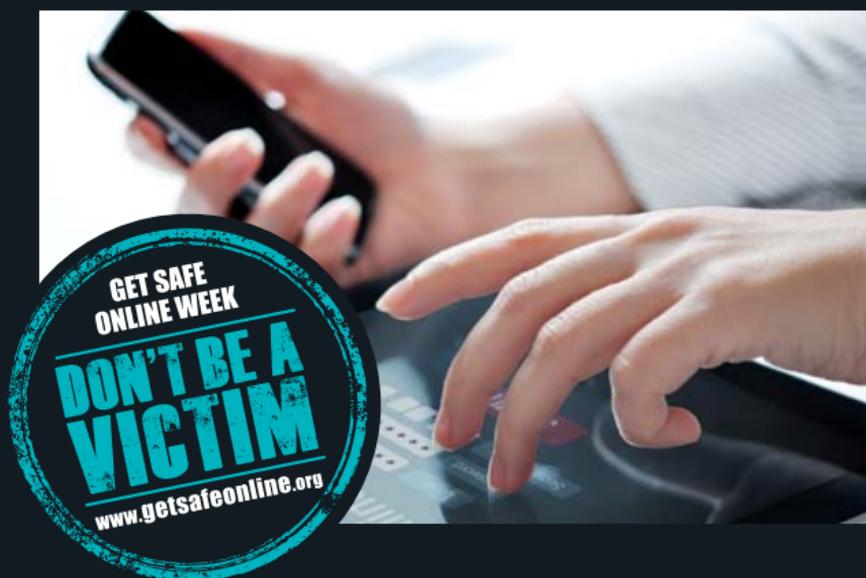
Holiday scam

Lynda, an office manager from Norfolk booked a week's break in Nerja, southern Spain for herself, her husband and another couple on a holiday rentals website. The apartment owner didn't take card payments and Lynda agreed to transfer the cost of the apartment directly to the owner's bank account.

When Lynda and her companions arrived in Nerja, the apartment was locked and on investigation, it turned out that the person who she had booked the holiday with was, in fact, a fraudster and the genuine owner had booked the apartment out to somebody else. The fraudster then disappeared and their bank account closed.

Because the money had been paid directly into the fraudster's bank account, Lynda failed to get her and her friends' money back, nor did they get their eagerly-anticipated holiday.

Get Safe Online Week



For more information and impartial advice on protecting yourself, your family, your business, your computer and mobile devices while online visit

www.getsafeonline.org



OFFICIAL PARTNERS

