

eSecurity Newsletter — AVOIDING SUMMER CYBER BLUES

School's out and the beach and mountains are calling. It's vacation time for many of us and summer job time for others. So whether you're packing your bag or making money for college, we all still need to remember cyber safety. Vacation rentals, job offers and summer concert tickets are just a few of the things scammers use to cause you the summertime blues.

SUMMER TRAVEL SCAMS

Wi-fi Scams are a common risk when using public free Wi-Fi networks. Scammers can access files of others' devices connected to a public, non-encrypted, Wi-Fi network and steal personal information. Free Wi-fi does not mean that it is a secure Wi-Fi. Your device may have an auto-connect feature that searches for and automatically connects to available and accessible Wi-Fi networks. If this feature is enabled, it means that your device will automatically connect to any available Wi-Fi network—even one that was set up by a malicious actor to eavesdrop on you, putting your personal information at risk. It may be wise to set your device to NOT connect to available Wi-Fi automatically.

Stop-Think-Share – While it's tempting to post real-time social media updates on your amazing summer vacation, consider what and when you share. Remember that no social media outlet is completely private. Even when you use the privacy settings, it's still possible for the bad guys to learn when no one's home. Maybe save your location-disclosing posts for AFTER your safe return?



Don't Stop the Music – Summer is concert season, and with concerts come ticket scalpers. Rushing to buy concert tickets before they sell out, some people forget to check whether or not the vendor is genuine. Some phony sellers trick people into wiring money without intending to actually send the tickets. Many venues permit buyers to print their own tickets so scalpers sell the same ticket over and over again. It is always better to buy tickets from secure websites and licensed brokers.

Front Desk Fake

The front desk scam generally starts after you check into your hotel. Someone calls you from 'reception', saying that they are experiencing problems with your



credit card. They ask you to verbally confirm your credit card number and voila, the scammer has your card details. If you get a call like this, hang up and call back, or visit the front desk in person.

Summer Job Scam artists advertise jobs on the same platforms that legitimate employers do. These fake "employers" offer first-time, entry-level jobs attractive to inexperienced people such as students. Unsuspecting job seekers apply, willingly providing their personal information, including their birth date and social security number "for tax purposes" or to "run a credit/background check" on the applicant. By the time the applicant realizes no job is actually being offered, identity theft and credit damage can already be done. It is advisable to run a background check on any hiring company before providing any personally identifiable information to a potential employer.

FBI CYBER ALERT — CALL TO ACTION !!!

A serious malware attack is threatening routers worldwide. [Read the article](#) recommending that everyone reboot their routers **IMMEDIATELY**.

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