Cash in on transfer app safety tips

BY EXPONENT

Cash is like the vinyl record of financial transactions — long ago outdated by digital technologies but still old-school. With it you can keep some actual cash on hand for emergencies, there’s nothing simpler than paying cash back by rolling with a swipe or transferring with a tap to handle your bills.

Apps that transfer cash serve here to stay cause we turned PayPal and Venmo into verbs. But consider this: Using cash transfer apps like those — or Cash App, Google Pay, Apple Pay and Zelle — is like carrying your ID in your wallet. (Installing a locator app is a smart start; should you lose your phone, you can find and securely lock it with a tap from a distance.)

You know not to flash too much cash, so it’s smart to take precautions that ensure all of your digital transactions stay speedy and secure.

Choose PINs and Passwords Carefully

Smart, strong passwords and PINs — the confections of any sufficiently cautious digital decision. Make them hard to guess, and use a different one for each app you might use. Plus, nearly all cash transfer apps require email. Safeguard that account with a powerful password, too.

Use Multi-Factor Authentication if Possible

Take advantage of multiple methods to authenticate your account if they’re offered — such as a biometric authentication method (like your fingerprint) or a unique, one-time code sent to you.

Don’t Share Transaction Details

No one needs to know who paid whom for sushi last night. Limit or turn off any social-sharing features.

Avoid Transfers on Public WiFi Networks

Security can be a concern on public WiFi networks, through which criminals can access devices and information. If possible, wait to complete money transfers until you get home — perhaps over your-moreover, secure Wintel connection!

Watch Out for Scams

Scammers can pretend to be loved ones in trouble asking for money, disguise themselves as unsolicited tech support, or insist you’ve won a prize for which you must pay fees. As always: If it seems suspicious, trust your gut. Never pay, or share information with, a stranger.

If you get an unexpected request for money from someone who knows you, reach out through other means to ensure it’s really them. And if you think you’ve paid a scammer, seek official support from your app or report the fraud at reportfraud.ftc.gov.

Check out these campus safety tips

Follow @purdueemergency on Twitter for campus security tips, such as tornado warnings.

Many residences staff an access desk at the single entry point to monitor residents and escorted guests who are entering or leaving the building. Guests must sign a register, and residents must show the door-access card to be admitted. To apply to be a patrol person, visit the Student Security Patrol page on Purdue’s website.

Laptop Registration

Students are encouraged to register their personal laptops with Purdue Police to assist with recovering stolen computers. Complete the registration form at go.purdue.edu/laptopRegistration.

Crime Intervention

Purdue Police are trained to recognize when a person’s actions may be the result of mental health issues, and can tap into county-wide preparedness. Some have test alert systems on what students should do if they feel threatened in any way. Participate in fire drills and learn the nearest exits and protocols for emergency evacuations.

• Use the buddy system. Most campuses are safe to move around, but it can’t hurt to walk with a friend or use the Safe Walk Program. Security experts say elevators and stairwells are common places for assaults to target victims. If you feel uncomfortable, trust your instincts and err on the side of caution.

• Be alert when ridesharing. Always be sure you’re meeting the driver in a safe place. If possible, wait to complete money transfers until you get in and ask the driver to identify you, as they will have it and your destination. Wait for the ride in a safe place, and try to avoid riding alone.

• Maintain personal health. Be sure to visit the doctor and stay current on necessary vaccinations.

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