Call For Action

Issue # 8 **Newsletter** **March 20, 2024**

QR Code Scams

As part of Call for Action's mission to educate consumers about activities they should be aware of, we are sharing an article that some of our volunteers recently received. ***(Source: Summit Credit Union Email, dated 2/15/2024)***

Whether you are grabbing a bite to eat at an airport restaurant or at a happy hour after work, chances are you will see a QR (quick response) code on the menu – usually a black-and-white square you scan with your phone to get right to a website or payment portal.

Scammers can easily place fake QR code stickers right over the top of real ones – at airports, bus stations, gas stations and other public places. This scam, known as "quishing," is particularly tricky because legitimate QR codes will sometimes ask you for information – like at a restaurant to pay your bill, for example.

How To Avoid A QR Scam?

The first step is to inspect the QR code before you scan it. Things to look for:

- Does the QR code look like it's been placed over the top of another?
- Does the QR code have grammar or spelling mistakes?
- Only scan QR codes if you know they are from a legitimate company.

If you do scan the code, check the following:

- Does the web address align with the business?
- Does the website look authentic?
- Check for misspellings, changes of single letters or the addition of numbers and characters.
- Be extra cautious if the site asks for any personal or financial information. NEVER enter your online banking credentials.

If you sense something is not right, be safe and Google the company to get to the destination instead of scanning a questionable QR code.

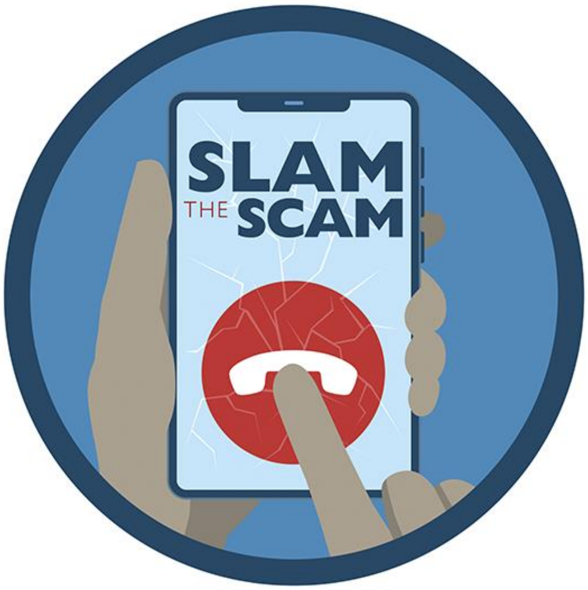
Learn more about how to see and stop a scam by clicking this link. This goes to a Summit Credit Union site.

National Slam the Scam Day

(Source: Social Security Administration)

National Slam the Scam Day

March 7, 2024



On National Slam the Scam Day and throughout the year, we give you the tools to recognize Social Security-related scams and stop scammers from stealing your money and personal information.

Help protect your loved ones and people in your community this Slam the Scam Day by:

- Educating them about government imposter scams. Let them know they shouldn't be embarrassed to report if they shared personal information or suffered a financial loss. It is important to report the scam as quickly as possible.
- Sharing our *Scam Alert* fact sheet and helping educate others about how to protect themselves.

Report Social Security-related scams to the Social Security Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

Report a Scam

Visit www.ssa.gov/scam for more information and follow SSA OIG on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn to stay up to date on the latest scam tactics. Repost #SlamtheScam information on social media to keep your friends and family safe.

Consumer Resources

There are several resources available to assist consumers when attempts to resolve issues have failed. The 2 most common are:

1. Better Business Bureau (BBB). They can be reached at 800-273-1002. A complaint can be filed online at: www.bbb.org/wisconsin

2. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). This is a State of Wisconsin agency. They prefer that consumers complete the ONLINE complaint form at datcp.wi.gov DATCP can also be reached at 800-422-7128, if the consumer does not have internet access.