

Building a digital defense against social security fraud: by the FBI

Here in Oregon, the FBI is seeing an increase in the number of people who are reporting that they have lost money to bad guys who convince them that someone has compromised their Social Security number.

It often starts with a phone call by someone who claims to be a law enforcement or government official. That alleged official tells the victim that someone is using their Social Security number to commit crimes. After some discussion back and forth, the government official agrees that the victim isn't the person committing whatever the crime is, and he or she says they want to help them protect themselves. The victim is told to avoid discussing this with anyone until the fake government official can get the non-existent arrest warrant dismissed.

In the meantime, the bad guy convinces the victim that their bank accounts and credit cards are all tied to that Social Security number, and that the victim risks losing all of that money if they don't take action themselves. Sometimes – but not always – the “government

official” brings in a second bad guy at this point, allegedly to help the victim protect their money and get a replacement Social Security number. Often, they will move the conversation to an encrypted messaging app so that the victim can feel that they are safely transmitting private banking info to these helpful government officials.

In some cases, the bad guys will convince the victim to max out their debit and credit cards – or empty their bank account – to buy gift cards with every available cent. Once the victim does this, they ask the victim to send them pictures of the gift card numbers and validation codes via the secure messaging app. The bad guys say that they will then transfer these funds into a secure account that won't be affected by whatever fraudulent activity they've detected on the victim's real Social Security number.

Of course, the whole thing is a scam and the victim ends up giving out critical personal banking information as well as transferring the funds directly to the people they think are protecting them.

Here's how to protect yourself:

- If you receive such a call, assume it is a scam. No government official or law enforcement officer will ever ask you for personal banking information or money over the phone. Legitimate officials will also never ask you to communicate via encrypted messaging apps.

- Do not take pictures of or transmit info about gift cards online, especially to people or companies you don't know.

- If you are concerned about fraudulent use of your identity, you should hang up and make contact with verified government or law enforcement officials. If it relates to

your Social Security number, make sure to report any fraud to Social Security as well.

As always, if you have been victimized by this or any cyber fraud, be sure to report it to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov or call your local FBI office.

Tech Tuesday Tips: Social Security Fraud

- If you receive a call about fraud with your Social Security number, proceed with caution.
- Real government & law enforcement officials will not ask for money or financial info on phone.
- Don't share or post photos of gift card or financial info.
- Report scams to www.ic3.gov



FBI – Portland Division

Today in History: by The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 7, the 311th day of 2018. There are 54 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 7, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won an unprecedented fourth term in office, defeating Republican Thomas E. Dewey.

On this date:

In 1862, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln replaced Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan as commander of the Army of the Potomac with Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside.

In 1874, the Republican Party was symbolized as an elephant in a cartoon drawn by Thomas Nast in Harper's Weekly.

In 1916, Republican Jeannette Rankin of Montana became the first woman elected to Congress, winning a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1917, Russia's Bolshevik Revolution took place as forces led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin overthrew the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky.

In 1940, Washington state's original Tacoma Narrows Bridge, nicknamed "Galloping Gertie," collapsed into Puget Sound during a windstorm just four months after

opening to traffic.

In 1962, Richard M. Nixon, having lost California's gubernatorial race, held what he called his "last press conference," telling reporters, "You won't have Nixon to kick around anymore."

In 1967, Carl Stokes was elected the first black mayor of a major city -- Cleveland, Ohio.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon was re-elected in a landslide over Democrat George McGovern.

In 1973, Congress overrode President Richard Nixon's veto of the War Powers Act, which limits a chief executive's power to wage war without congressional approval.

In 1980, actor Steve McQueen died in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, at age 50.

In 1991, basketball star Magic Johnson announced that he had tested positive for HIV, and was retiring. (Despite his HIV status, Johnson has been able to sustain himself with medication.)

In 2001, the Bush administration targeted Osama bin Laden's multi-million-dollar financial networks, closing businesses in four states, detaining U.S. suspects and urging allies to help choke off money supplies in 40 nations.

Ten years ago: In his first news conference since being elected president, Barack Obama called on Congress to extend unemployment benefits and pass a stimulus bill. The government reported the unemployment rate had soared to 6.5 percent in October 2008, up from 6.1 percent just a month earlier. General Motors Corp. reported a \$2.5 billion loss in the third quarter while Ford Motor Co. said it had lost \$129 million. A school in Haiti collapsed, killing some 90 people. Mieczyslaw Rakowski, Poland's last communist-era party chairman and prime minister, died in Warsaw at age 81.

Five years ago: Seeking to calm a growing furor, President Barack Obama told NBC News he was "sorry" Americans were losing health insurance plans that he repeatedly had said they could keep under his health care law, but he stopped short of apologizing for making those promises in the first place. The Food and Drug Administration announced it was requiring the food industry to phase out artery-clogging trans fats. Shares of Twitter went on sale to the public for the first time; by the closing bell, the social network was valued at \$31 billion. A Russian spacecraft carrying

the Olympic torch and three astronauts docked with the International Space Station ahead of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

One year ago: Democrats Ralph Northam in Virginia and Phil Murphy in New Jersey were the winners in their states' gubernatorial elections. Voters in Maine approved a measure allowing them to join 31 other states in expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. President Donald Trump arrived in South Korea, saying efforts to curb the North's nuclear weapons program would be "front and center" of his two-day visit. Former star baseball pitcher Roy Halladay died when the small private plane he was flying crashed into the Gulf of Mexico; the 40-year-old was an eight-time All-Star for the Blue Jays and Phillies. Twitter said it was ending its 140-character limit on tweets, and allowing nearly everyone 280 characters to get their message across.

Thought for Today: "Remember always that you not only have the right to be an individual, you have an obligation to be one." — Eleanor Roosevelt (born 1884, died on this date in 1962).

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Pulled Pork Sandwich **\$4.09 ea.** (Choice of potato salad or macaroni salad, Reg. \$5.49)

Grab-N-Go Bagel Sandwich **\$2.99 ea.** (Reg. \$3.99)

Salad Case

Beet & Onion Fennel Slaw **\$3.69 lb.** (Reg. \$4.99)

Breakfast Menu

2 Egg Scramble **\$3.49 ea.** (Your choice meat, cheese, vegetables & toast, with Toast, Reg. \$4.69)

Meat

Beeler's 1/4 Hams **\$4.49 lb.** (Reg. \$5.19 lb.)

Organic Prairie Sausage **\$11.79 ea.** (Reg. \$13.79 ea.)

Beer & Wine

Eel River IPA **\$8.39 + dep.** (6 pk. bottles, Reg. \$10.49 + dep.)

Eden Vale Pear Cider **\$11.09 + dep.** (Reg. \$13.99 + dep.)

Produce

Organic Rainbow Carrot Bunch **\$1.59 ea.** (Reg. \$2.09 ea.)

Organic Bulk Fingerling Potatoes **\$2.09 lb.** (Reg. \$2.69 lb.)

Organic Granny Smith Apples **99¢ lb.** (Reg. \$1.29 lb.)

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