

Building a digital defense against gift card scams: by the FBI

The Oregon FBI is celebrating this week! Today marks 100 episodes in the Tech Tuesday series of stories about how you can build a digital defense and stay safe online.

But just because we hit a big milestone, we do NOT want you to go out and buy us a gift card.

Cards are definitely convenient and easy, and they do make great gifts to grads or dads on father’s day. But, when someone demands a gift card as payment for anything, that is a sure sign that you have likely stumbled into a scam.

In fact, the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov) sees gift card usage as a prime component of many of the most popular online frauds.

Think you won the lottery that you maybe don’t even remember entering, and the company asks for you to pay some handling fee with a gift card? It’s a scam.

Is someone threatening to turn off your cable or water because you have a late bill, but

they will keep you going if you just pay some back fees with a gift card? It’s a scam.

Have an online Romeo who just needs a little help before he can finally come to meet you? He asks for boost via gift card, and you know you have a scam.

In fact, there are 1,001 scams out there, and most of them can end with a request for payment by gift card.

According to our friends at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the most popular requests by fraudsters are for iTunes, Google Play or Amazon gift cards. The bad guy will often direct you to one or more local stores such as Target, Walmart or Walgreens to buy the cards. Sometimes he will stay on the phone with you or in touch by text or social media to make sure you go through with the purchase. Once done, he will immediately ask for the card number and PIN. The scammer can drain the card almost instantaneously, leaving you with nothing but an empty wallet.

If you do realize quickly that you are a victim, try contacting the card issuer to see if there’s anything it can do. But, remember – a gift card is like cash. Once it is gone, it is almost impossible to recover it.

As we wrap up No.100, a thanks to you for following our Tech Tuesday series, and be sure to check our website at <https://Portland.fbi.gov> for our previous episodes.

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: Gift Card Fraud

- Be wary if anyone demands that you buy a gift card to pay a debt or transfer cash.
- Gift cards are like cash – once gone, you rarely can recover your funds.
- Report scams to www.ic3.gov



FBI – Portland Division

Today in History : by The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, June 5, the 156th day of 2019. There are 209 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On June 5, 2004, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, died in Los Angeles at age 93 after a long struggle with Alzheimer’s disease.

On this date:

In 1794, Congress passed the Neutrality Act, which prohibited Americans from taking part in any military action against a country that was at peace with the United States.

In 1917, about 10 million American men between the ages of 21 and 31 began registering for the draft in World War I.

In 1933, the United States went off the gold standard.

In 1947, Secretary of State George C. Marshall gave a speech at Harvard University in which he outlined an aid program for Europe that came to be known as The Marshall Plan.

In 1950, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Henderson v. United States*, struck down racially segregated railroad dining cars.

In 1963, Britain’s Secretary of State for War, John Profumo, resigned after acknowledging an affair with call girl Christine Keeler, who was also involved with a Soviet spy, and lying to Parliament about it.

In 1967, war erupted in the Middle East as Israel, anticipating a possible attack by its Arab neighbors,

launched a series of pre-emptive airfield strikes that destroyed nearly the entire Egyptian air force; Syria, Jordan and Iraq immediately entered the conflict.

In 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded after claiming victory in California’s Democratic presidential primary at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles; assassin Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was arrested at the scene.

In 1976, 14 people were killed when the Teton Dam in Idaho burst.

In 1981, the Centers for Disease Control reported that five homosexuals in Los Angeles had come down with a rare kind of pneumonia; they were the first recognized cases of what later became known as AIDS.

In 2002, Magic Johnson was introduced as a member of the 2002 class elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

In 2013, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, accused of killing 16 Afghan civilians, many of them sleeping women and children, pleaded guilty to murder at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, to avoid the death penalty; he was sentenced to life in prison.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama, while visiting Germany, became the first U.S. president to tour the Buchenwald concentration camp, where he honored the 56,000 who died at the hands of the Nazis. Ex-CIA operative and Watergate

burglar Bernard Barker died in suburban Miami at age 92.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama said he “absolutely makes no apologies” for seeking the release of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in a prisoner swap with the Taliban, vigorously defending an exchange that caused controversy.

One year ago: Fashion designer Kate Spade, known for her sleek handbags, was found dead in her Park Avenue apartment in New York in what the medical examiner determined was a suicide by hanging; she was 55. After it became clear that most players from the Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles weren’t going to show up, President Donald

Trump gave the boot to a White House ceremony for the team, and instead threw his own brief “Celebration of America.” Former TV mogul Harvey Weinstein pleaded not guilty in New York to rape and criminal sex act charges; he’d been indicted a week earlier on charges involving two women. The Miss America pageant announced that it was eliminating the swimsuit competition from the event; the new head of the organization’s board of trustees, Gretchen Carlson, said on ABC, “We’re not going to judge you on your appearance because we are interested in what makes you you.”

Today’s Birthdays: Actor-singer Bill Hayes

is 94. Broadcast journalist Bill Moyers is 85. Former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark is 80. Author Dame Margaret Drabble is 80. Country singer Don Reid (The Statler Brothers) is 74. Rock musician Freddie Stone (AKA Freddie Stewart) (Sly and the Family Stone) is 72. Rock singer Laurie Anderson is 72. Country singer Gail Davies is 71. Author Ken Follett is 70. Financial guru Suze Orman is 68. Rock musician Nicko McBrain (Iron Maiden) is 67. Jazz musician Peter Erskine is 65. Jazz musician Kenny G is 63. Rock singer Richard Butler (Psychodelic Furs) is 63. Actress Beth Hall is 61. Actor Jeff Garlin is 57. Actress Karen Sillas is 56. Actor Ron Livingston is 52.

Singer Brian McKnight is 50. Rock musician Claus Norreen (Aqua) is 49. Actor Mark Wahlberg is 48. Actor Chad Allen is 45. Rock musician P-Nut (311) is 45. Actress Navi Rawat (ROH’-waht) is 42. Actress Liza Weil is 42. Rock musician Pete Wentz (Fall Out Boy) is 40. Rock musician Seb Lefebvre (Simple Plan) is 38. Actress Chelsey Crisp is 36. Actress Amanda Crew is 33. Electronic musician Harrison Mills (Odesza) is 30. Musician/songwriter/producer DJ Mustard is 29. Actress Sophie Lowe is 29. Actor Hank Greenspan is nine.

Thought for Today: “Dare to be naive.” — R. Buckminster Fuller, American inventor and philosopher (1895-1983).

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