Seniors Vs. Crime | Fake Invoice Scams

Here at Seniors Vs. Crime, we are constantly on the lookout for new scams that may target YOU. Thanks to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), we've recently heard that scammers are recycling an old phishing attempt. In this version, scammers, posing as a well-known technical support company, email a phony invoice showing that you've recently bought music or apps from them. The email tells you to click on a link if you did not authorize the purchase.

STOP! Do not click on that link. That's the new twist on an old scam.

More precisely, you just experienced a phishing attempt. Phishing is when a scammer uses fraudulent emails or texts, or copycat websites to trick you into sharing valuable personal information. The scammers then use that information to commit fraud or identity theft.

Scammers also use phishing emails to get access to your computer or network so they can install programs like ransomware to lock you out of important files on your computer. The scammer can then demand a "ransom" to allow you access to your files again.

According to Art Lazarus, a Consumer Education Specialist with the FTC, here are some tips to help keep your information secure:

- Be suspicious if a business, government agency, or organization asks you to click on a link which then asks for your username, password, or other personal data. Instead, type in the web address for the organization or call them. The link in the email may look right, but if you click it you may go to a copycat website run by a scammer.
- Be cautious about opening attachments. A scammer could even pretend to be a friend or family member, sending messages with malware from a spoofed account.
- Set your security software to update automatically, and back up your files to an external hard drive or cloud storage. Back up your files regularly and use security software you trust to protect your data.

In order to help fight phishing problems, the FTC asks that you report phishing emails and texts by forwarding them to spam@uce.gov and by filing a report with the FTC.