

READING

The Dangers of a Connected Lifestyle: Tech Scams to Watch Out For

Social media and our connected lifestyles have made it easier for unwanted cyber-criminals to be able to steal important data from unsuspecting victims. Be careful! Make sure you don't get taken in by these scams.

Tech support? Think again.

When Jason Cameron received a phone call from someone claiming to work for his internet security provider, he was surprised to hear something could be wrong with his new laptop. He couldn't remember updating his virus protection software recently, so he thought that must have been the problem.

'The woman told me to download some software so that she would be able to access my computer remotely and she could remove a virus,' he said. 'Once I had downloaded ⁰ it, she asked me to pay a fee into a PayPal account.' He's embarrassed at the memory, 'I willingly did ¹ it because I thought to myself she might be able to fix my computer quickly. I know, I know, I shouldn't have done that,' he said, disappointingly.

Once Jason had granted her access, a window to his data was left wide open that allowed thieves to help themselves to his personal and financial information.

Fake Social Media Messages. Be careful!

Fake social media messages are a common scam. You get an email from your social network, from a name you recognise. The email refers to a photo posted on the social network that the sender has tagged you in. Of course you click on the link, but only to find there is an error and you have to update software or install a plug-in. However, installing this infects your computer with a virus that allows hackers to steal passwords and credit card numbers.

This is what happened to Alison Mitchell. 'When I then tried to use my computer, ² it had frozen. After restarting ³ it, I noticed my files were missing. The thieves must have hacked into my computer. ⁴ It must have happened while I was unable to use ⁵ it. 'I shouldn't have installed software that came from a suspicious link and instead I should have marked the email as spam,' she said.

1 Read the text. What do the underlined words refer to?

- 0 Once I had downloaded it,... *the software*
- 1 I willingly did it...
- 2 ... it had frozen.
- 3 After restarting it,...
- 4 It must have happened while...
- 5 ... I was unable to use it.

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2 Read Jason's story again and decide if the sentences are true or false. Correct the false sentences.

- 0 Jason was aware that his new laptop had a virus.
False. He was surprised to hear something could be wrong with his new laptop.
- 1 He regularly updated his virus protection software.
- 2 After he downloaded the software, the woman could access his computer from where she was.
- 3 Jason was reluctant to pay any fee.
- 4 He now understands the mistake he made.
- 5 Anyone could access his computer's data once he had downloaded the software.

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LISTENING

1 Listen to a radio programme and put the events in the correct order.

- A She posted a message on her social network wall to share news about the trip. _
- B Burglars had broken into her house and stolen nearly everything. _
- C Some of her friends liked her social network status and the news spread. _
- D She went on holiday to Jamaica and had a really good time. _
- E Michelle West decided to go on holiday to visit her family. 0
- F She returned home to a shock. _
- G Her friends and family commented on her post wishing her a good time. _
- H Police said that the thieves must have found out she'd be away from her social network. _
- I After posting details about her trip, people could see where she lived. _

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1 Listen again and complete the sentences.

- 0 Michelle West is from Durham in the *north east of* *England*.
- 1 She never goes anywhere without her _____.
- 2 She wanted to share her _____ Jamaica with a few _____.
- 3 Michelle has _____ social network friends.
- 4 When you post a message online, it sometimes gives details of your _____.
- 5 It's not a problem to post online if you have the right _____.
- 6 The police believed the burglar must have known she was on holiday from _____.
- 7 The information on her profile _____.