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NEWSLETTER



How To Avoid Online Job Search Scams

Cybercrooks are disturbing people. Consider job-search scams. With the world economy reeling, bad actors are capitalizing on people's desperation. They're targeting those looking for work. There are steps you can take to filter out illegitimate opportunities.

Cybercriminals like to be timely. Plus, appealing to people's emotions improves their success rate, so it's not that surprising that there's been an uptick in job-listing scams in 2020.

Avoid Job Search Scams Online

The bad guys are betting people will be less cautious when they see an attractive job offer. Don't be their victim. Take these steps instead.

Read the job description carefully.

Meaning:

- Looking for grammatical or spelling errors. As with other cyberscams, someone who is not a native speaker of the posting's language may write the listing.
- Being wary of phrases designed to communicate urgency or a too-good-to-be-true offer. You wouldn't expect to see "quick earning potential" or "unlimited money" in a legit posting.

- Search for specificity. A legitimate listing will list job responsibilities and industry credentials. Someone faking it is less likely to be able to use the industry vocabulary.

Be wary of instant hiring

No matter the industry, few positions are filled immediately. You should expect the recruiting process to take time. If you are being pressured to take hiring steps urgently, that should be a red flag. Get an email congratulating you on earning the position before you've met with anyone? Proceed with caution.

Question modes of communication

Job scammers will rely on online chat interviews and email. If you don't speak in person with someone, it will be more difficult for you to confirm legitimacy. With emails, read the return address carefully. A scam job might use a close approximation to a big brand to add credibility. (You have to look closely to distinguish between nationalbank.com and nationlbank.com.)

A good strategy is to search the company's website for a job listing. If you don't see the role you're interested in posted, investigate further.

Don't pay for a job opportunity

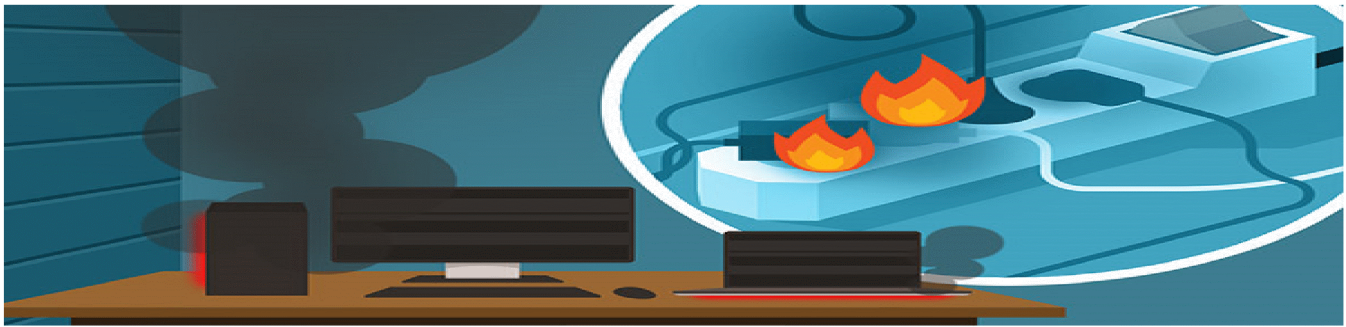
Don't pay an upfront fee for a background check, uniform, or some other testing or training. Don't provide any of your private personal information at the outset either. Don't send tax or banking details before a formal offer of employment. Even then, be aware that some scammers take it from start to finish, including interview and job offer.

Trust your instincts

If the job sounds amazing, and you can't believe how perfect it is, scrutinize the posting. A listing posting an exorbitant fee for easy work or telling you about the stupendous success of another candidate is likely a fraud. Confirm standard job expectations and salary with an online search of career listings.

Falling prey to a job or other cyberfraud can leave you vulnerable to more than disappointment. Victims report loss of money, identity theft, or computer hacking, and more. An IT expert can help with security patches and system upgrades to keep your devices and network safe.

Need help weeding out the real from the fake? Contact us today at 940-282-0290!



Protect Your Home from Technology Fire Risk

You love your technology and probably have a lot of it at home. You might not think of computers, smartphones, printers, or routers as a fire risk, but they can do real damage.

Microwaves, laundry machines, and air conditioners are the top sources of residential fires, but computer equipment is also responsible for fires that injure and kill homeowners.

So, what should you do? Keep in mind that your technology generates heat when it's switched on; that's why it's designed with venting. But desktops, laptops, routers, modems, and printers can all overheat.

Desktop computers have fans to push out the air, but they can get clogged with dust or blocked. Often, we'll see computers pushed up against a wall, covered with papers, or kept in a small alcove that gets no airflow.

Laptops can also overheat. People often sit with their laptops literally on their lap, or on a blanket or pillow. If you're blocking the device's exhaust port, the laptop can't cool down.

Air also needs to get into the device to cool it, but that won't happen properly if dust or pet hair clogs the vents. Your precious technology could overheat and cause a fire or stop functioning effectively because it has to work harder all the time.

Other Tech-Related Fire Threats

A rat's nest of cables represents a fire risk. You should always try to avoid overloading your circuits with too much electrical load. You can also upgrade your electrical wiring and go with heavy-duty extension cords.

Charging cords and overheated batteries are another issue. You've probably heard of airlines banning certain smartphones because they have been known to spontaneously combust.

You can prevent charger and battery damage by choosing brand-name items. Third-party chargers for phones, tablets, and laptops can save money, but they are cheaper because they lack safety features. If your charger sets your room on fire, your cost savings go up in flames.

You might also think about getting an uninterruptible power supply (UPS). This battery backup supplies power if your regular power source fails. It can also prevent power surges and allow for safe shutdown of connected equipment.

Finally, plan to get your computer cleaned annually. You might do this yourself, but many people prefer to hire computer tech help.

Everything from surge protectors...to UPS Backup Units...to higher-quality components used to replace older, worn, lesser-quality components...we can help increase your protection from a possible tech-related fire threat.

As mentioned...there are many ways we can help protect you when it comes to your computers and computer-related hardware.

Whether it's computer cleaning, or setting up safe wiring or a UPS, we can help protect your home. Contact us at 940-282-0290 today about fireproofing your technology!