

The FBI's Top 10 Common Scam Definitions

Phishing/Spoofing: Unsolicited email, texts, and telephone calls purportedly from a legitimate company requesting personal, financial, and/or login credentials.

Tech Support Fraud: Subject posing as technical or customer support/service.

Extortion: Unlawful extraction of money/property through intimidation or undue exercise of authority. May include threats of physical harm, criminal prosecution, or public exposure.

Personal Data Breach: Leaks of personal data released from a secure location to an untrusted environment and/or a security incident in which an individual's sensitive, protected, or confidential data is copied, transmitted, viewed, stolen, or used by an unauthorized individual.

Investment Fraud: A deceptive practice that induces investors to make purchases based on false information promising large returns with minimal risk.

Non-Payment/Non-Delivery Fraud: Goods/services are shipped but payment is never rendered (non-payment). Payment is sent, but goods/services are never received, or are of poor quality (non-delivery).

Confidence/Romance Fraud: An individual believes they are in a relationship (family, friendly, or romantic) and are tricked into sending money, personal and financial information, or items of value to the perpetrator or to launder money or items to assist the perpetrator. This includes the Grandparent's Scam in which the perpetrator preys on the targeted individual's "heartstrings."

Government Impersonation: A government official is impersonated to collect or extort money.

Identity Theft: Wrongfully obtained personally identifiable information used in a fraudulent or deception way typically for economic gain.

Business Email Compromise (BEC): BEC scams target those working with suppliers/businesses that make wire transfer payments. These scams are carried out via compromised email accounts and other forms of communication such as phone numbers and virtual meeting applications, through social engineering or computer intrusion techniques to conduct unauthorized transfer of funds.