

# The Holidays (And the Criminals) Are Just Around the Corner



It's that time of year again — a time of celebrations and festivities! You might be buying gifts and vouchers, organizing family reunions and trips, or maybe even donating money to charity. Unfortunately, there are also plenty of opportunities for dishonest criminals to take advantage of your generosity and joyful mood. To stay safe over the next few weeks, you should follow a few simple instructions.

## Donations

Cybercriminals often make fake fundraising appeals around the holidays to exploit people's goodwill. They use deceptively real emails or websites to steal money or data. To be on **the safe side, verify that the organization is authentic** and never click on links or attachments in unsolicited emails.



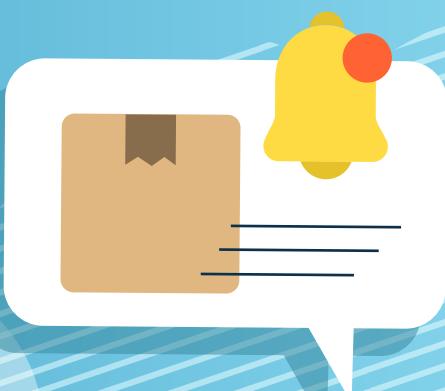


## Gift Cards

During holidays, fraudsters often spread fake gift cards, vouchers, or discount codes via emails or social media. These offers can lead to identity theft or the spread of malware. You should only buy gift cards and vouchers from official websites.

## Offers

Unrealistically cheap offers, often for coveted products or trips, are a popular scam. If an offer seems too good to be true, it's likely to be a scam. **Only buy from trusted retailers and always be suspicious of offers that are well below the market price.**



## Deliveries

With many people ordering gifts online, fake delivery notifications are particularly common. To protect yourself, **always check shipment tracking via the official website of the delivery company**, and don't click on links in unexpected delivery notifications.