

HOW TO SPOT A SCAM

1

If the price is too good to be true, it probably is. If you are looking at a site and it's offering 30-90% off other sites, it is likely that it is a scam.

Apple Simple Mobile Prepaid - Apple iPhone 11 Pro Max (64GB) - Midnight Green [Locked to Carrier – Simple Mobile]
Visit the Apple Store
★★★★☆ 120 ratings | 135 answered questions
Price: **\$1,099.99** ✓prime & FREE Returns

original price

VS

Apple Simple Mobile Prepaid - Apple iPhone 11 Pro Max (64GB) - Midnight Green [Locked to Carrier – Simple Mobile] **LIMITED TIME ONLY! ACT NOW!**
Visit the Apple Store
★★★★☆ 120 ratings | 135 answered questions
Price: **\$399.99** ✓prime & FREE Returns

"limited time only" price

2

The site has unusual payment options. A site using unusual or unprotected payment options such as wire transfers, bank transfer, gift cards, or other payment applications, such as Venmo, Cash App, Zella, Western Union, etc, could be a scam.



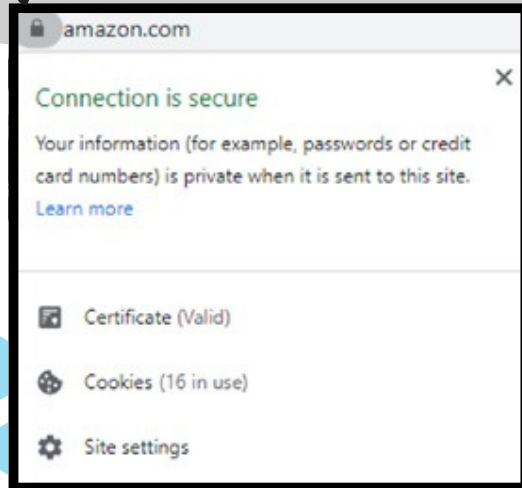
3

Poor web design can be an indicator of a scam site. Scammers often don't put in the time or investment to make a good-looking website.

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The site doesn't use SSL/Lock. You should look at the top left-hand corner of the address bar. If you see a lock, it is secured with https, and if it is not, it might be a sign that the site is concerning, take precautions. **CAUTION:** Even if it has a lock it does not mean that the site is safe, it is just one thing to look for. Look at the URL, look for any typos, or inconsistencies, such as: AmazOn instead of amazon.



The site has limited or no contact information. If the business has limited to no contact information, doesn't provide an address, or a no return policy, it should be cause for concern.



The site portrays a sense of urgency. Most scams try to create a sense of urgency such as better act now, scare tactics, limited time only, or a countdown for a sale.




Advanced/ Investigative Tools

Domain Age Lookup

Look for a website that has been established for a long period of time. A good website is <https://lookup.icann.org/lookup>. Check out the image below.

It is important to look at the date it was created as many scam sites are less than a year old.

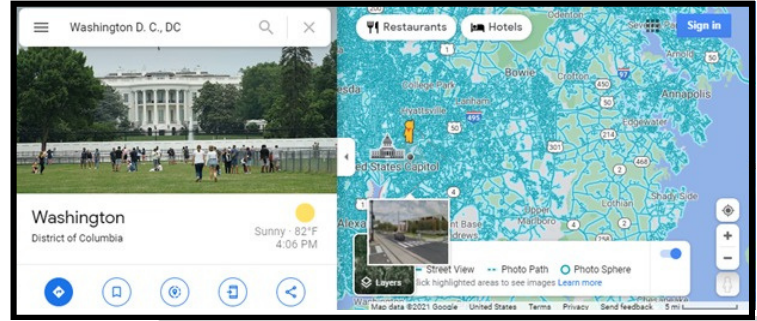


The screenshot shows the ICANN Lookup website. At the top, it says "ICANN | LOOKUP". Below that is the heading "Registration data lookup tool". There is a search bar with the placeholder text "Enter a domain name or an Internet number resource (IP Network or ASN)" and a link to "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)". Below the search bar is a text input field with the placeholder "Enter a value" and a blue "Lookup" button. At the bottom, there is a disclaimer: "By submitting any personal data, I acknowledge and agree that the personal data submitted by me will be processed in accordance with the ICANN Privacy Policy, and agree to abide by the website Terms of Service and the registration data lookup tool Terms of Use."

Online Reviews

Conduct a search of the website name and look for customer reviews, or sites such as Yelp, Angie's List, Better Business Bureau, or Consumer Affairs.

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Google Street View

Go to Google maps and search the address in the search bar. Once found click and drag the orange guy in the bottom right-hand corner on road to see the surroundings. Does the business name on the website match what you see?