

# WHAT IS A PHANTOM HACKER SCAM?



The FBI is warning the public of a recent nationwide increase in "Phantom Hacker" scams, significantly impacting senior citizens. These scams are an evolution of more general tech support scams, layering imposter tech support, financial institution, and government personas to enhance the trust victims place in the scammers and identify the most lucrative accounts to target. Victims often suffer the loss of entire banking, savings, retirement, or investment accounts under the guise of "protecting" their assets.

## Phantom Hacker Scam



### Tech Support Imposter

- Pretends to be technical support
- Directs you to install software on your computer to allow them remote access
- Can observe overall finances



### Financial Institution Imposter

- States your computer and financial accounts have been hacked
- Directs you to move your money to a US Government entity, such as the Federal Reserve, for "safety"



### US Government Imposter

- Poses as US government employee
- May provide official-looking letterhead to appear legitimate

OVER








**National Elder Fraud Hotline**  
**1-833-372-8311**

# WHAT IS A PHANTOM HACKER SCAM?




The FBI is warning the public of a recent nationwide increase in "Phantom Hacker" scams, significantly impacting senior citizens. These scams are an evolution of more general tech support scams, layering imposter tech support, financial institution, and government personas to enhance the trust victims place in the scammers and identify the most lucrative accounts to target. Victims often suffer the loss of entire banking, savings, retirement, or investment accounts under the guise of "protecting" their assets.

## PROTECT YOURSELF

-  Do not click on unsolicited pop-ups, links sent via text messages, or email links or attachments.
-  Do not contact the telephone number provided in a pop-up, text, or email.
-  Do not download software at the request of an unknown individual who contacted you.
-  Do not allow an unknown individual who contacted you to have control of your computer.
-  The US Government will never request you send money via wire transfer to foreign accounts, cryptocurrency, or gift/prepaid cards.

## REPORT IT

-  Report fraudulent or suspicious activities to your local FBI field office and the FBI IC3 at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov).  
Be as detailed as possible in your report including: name of person or company that contacted you, bank account numbers where the funds were wired and the recipients name, phone numbers, websites, etc.



OVER



**National Elder Fraud Hotline**  
**1-833-372-8311**