

## Community Cyber Ambassador Newsletter (Vol 1. April 2017)



### Creating a safer Cambridgeshire

Welcome to our first newsletter. April is the most popular time of the year for people to plan and book holidays for the coming year so this month's topic will explore Holiday Fraud.

Many travellers and holiday makers are keen to book for the Easter or summer periods but this can leave them exposed to travel booking fraud. Whether paying up front for a family holiday, booking a last minute package deal on line or simply booking a cheap flight it is important to be vigilant of fraudsters and bogus travel companies who may try and lure potential customers in with a low price and 'one time only offers' that can appear too good to pass up. Unfortunately these services never materialise leaving their victims with no holiday and potentially lose all their money.

Holiday Fraud can also include holiday/travel packages that include travel to and from entertainment events and sporting events, or even religious pilgrimages, such as for Hajj or to visit the Vatican in Rome.

If you have been affected by this issue, or any other scam, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040, or visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

For further advice please visit <https://www.getsafeonline.org> and search for Holiday and Travel Booking.

### *Protect yourself when booking a holiday or travel online*

Some advice if you are planning to book a holiday online.

- Whenever possible, pay for your holiday/ airline ticket accommodation by credit card as it offers increased protection. Paying by direct bank transfer gives no protection and a reputable company will never request payment via this method.
- Always look for the 'https' and locked padlock icon in the address bar before entering your payment details as this shows the connection between you and the website is secure.
- Never feel pressured to make a booking for fear that you will miss out on a 'low price' opportunity. If this is the first time you have used the company before or the holiday has been advertised to you through social media, take your time to do some online research to ensure they are reputable.
- For extra peace of mind should you make a flight or hotel booking through a travel company you can always check with the hotel / particular airline separately that your booking does indeed exist.
- Companies/websites registered outside the UK may not be subject to the same rules and legislation as those in based in the UK.

### **'It's easier to hack an election than eBay': confessions of a Belarusian hacker**

A notorious cybercriminal has said "it is easier to hack an electoral system than eBay or Citibank" and "the hardest things to hack are commercial banks, online payment systems, processing centres, ATM machine networks, dumps with pins and large commercial portals like eBay as these companies can afford to hire more qualified specialists to keep their systems secure. While not directly commenting on the US election they said it is getting easier to access to government organisations across the world thanks to the help of new apps being developed every day. (source [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com), 29/03/2017)

### **Apple says hackers holding 300m iCloud account details to ransom DIDN'T get into their servers**

A group of hackers claims that are holding 300 million iCloud accounts and iPhones hostage and are threatening to erase the contents of the iCloud accounts, as well as remotely wiping iPhones if Apple does not pay. Apple have said that if the list is legitimate, it was not obtained through any hack of its servers and a spokesperson said "The alleged list of email addresses and passwords appears to have been obtained from previously compromised third-party services". The hackers have demanded a ransom of either \$75,000 (£60,000) in either Bitcoin or Ethereum, both crypto-currencies, or \$100,000 (£80,000) worth of iTunes gift cards. In exchange, they assure Apple they would delete the data and have issued a final deadline of April 7 to meet their demands ([The Daily Mail](http://The Daily Mail), 23/03/2017) – For further advice and information on Ransomware and The Cloud see the relevant sections at Get Safe Online

### **Man in court over £120,000 Romance Fraud**

A 45-year-old man has appeared in court in Scotland in connection with a £120,000 romance fraud. Warning the public about the risks of romance fraud, Det Insp Iain McPhail, of Police Scotland's Economic Crime and Financial Investigation Unit, said: "If you are being referred to a potential partner by a third party, please ensure that they actually know that individual. Take steps to verify that images you see of that person are actually real images of them and not taken from the internet to give you a positive impression of them." (Source [BBC News](http://BBC News), 27/02/2017)– For further advice see the Safe Online Dating section at Get Safe Online.

The next issue of the newsletter will be focused on business fraud.