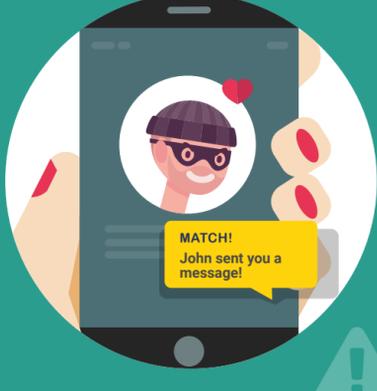


Crypto investment scams – how do they work?



THE ROMANCE FRAUDSTER

A fraudster approaches you on a dating app or social media platform. It can start as a romance scam, quickly turning into an investment fraud with potentially serious financial losses for you.

THE FRIEND IMPERSONATOR

A fraudster targets you by compromising your friends' social media accounts. Because you believe you are communicating with a trusted person, you can be more open to make the investment.



THE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

A fraudster calls and shows you a fraudulent crypto investment website. They convince you to invest based on a fake potential growth. In many cases, you will only realise the money cannot be withdrawn after a long period of investment time.



THE PHISHING ADS

You come across a crypto investment advertisement on social media.

You click on it and provide your contact information. The fraudster contacts you by phone and convinces you to invest.



Warning Signs

-  Investment opportunities with too good to be true returns.
-  Displays of urgency making you think this is a deal you don't want to miss.
-  Fraudulent ads posted on the internet or social media.
-  Unsolicited investment offers received by email, social media or telephone. The opportunities can be presented by:
 - fraudsters impersonating a friend;
 - someone you have only met via dating apps or social media;
 - a fake crypto investment company.
-  Requests to transfer your legit crypto investment to an alternate crypto address that is under the control of criminals.



Protect yourself against cryptocurrency scams!

- 1** Research carefully before making a crypto investment.
- 2** Be careful when sending cryptocurrency. Once the transaction is completed, you will be unable to recall it.
- 3** If you receive an investment opportunity from a friend, confirm that the message really came from them.
- 4** Be wary of individuals met on dating apps or social media who attempt to convince you to invest in cryptocurrencies.
- 5** Beware of unsolicited requests encouraging you to open and fund new crypto accounts. They will direct you to wallets controlled by criminals.
- 6** Prior to investing, research the team behind the offer and analyse the project.
- 7** Be clear on the conditions of your purchase and cryptocurrency ownership.
- 8** Keep it to yourself. If you buy cryptocurrency, do not announce it on social media as it might attract the criminals' attention.
- 9** If you become a victim, report it to your national police.

