

Man in the Middle Attacks



A dark shadowy figure haunting your life and scamming you might not be the best invitation to get connected with the modern digital economy, but this scam has venerable roots going back to the great train robbers, stagecoach bandits and armored truck hijackers.

The commonality is a criminal finding out the details of a legitimate transaction, and devising a way to intercept the cash or the goods along the way.

The good news is that if you're not sending or receiving a metaphorical train load of money, you're a lot less likely to be targeted. Beware however, that people in our world can have very different ideas of what 'a lot of money' is.

You start by communicating with a legitimate business and organising to make a real transaction: build a house, make a large home improvement, order a boat, or car. Alternatively you might be the seller: selling a wholesale quantity of something from your own home business, or a second hand car.

At some stage (often the very last moment) the scammer will sneak into the communication chain and change some key detail: perhaps bank account details on a quote, a delivery address, or the contact details of the 'accounts' person you need to deal with to organize payment.

You will believe you are still working with the original seller or buyer, but you're now working with the scammer. The scammer will generally know a lot about your transaction and be able to pull off a convincing imitation of being legitimate. These scams can involve emails, phone calls, mailed invoices, and can involve months of preparation during which

the scammer is eavesdropping.

These scams can be very hard to detect. The biggest technology channel on Youtube (Linus Media Group) was scammed in this way for several hundred thousand dollars: expensive and embarrassing!

Large companies conduct regular training of all their employees, and will send out scam emails to their own employees to see who falls for the scam. Offending employees are sent off for retraining. Ominous!

Marketplaces like ebay and Amazon provide some protection for these types of scams by managing the payments system. The risk increases dramatically whenever you deal with a seller or buyer direct. This means Facebook Marketplace, Gumtree, or any business you're dealing with directly. Buyer and the seller are completely innocent, but watch out for the sneaky man in the middle.

2:30pm Saturday 16 May

GENOCIDE in the Wildflower State

An award winning documentary followed by
a discussion with Jim Morrison OAM.

This is a free event at Northcliffe's Bean Bag cinema. No bookings needed.



Northcliffe CRC and SFA
are supported by the
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