Common Online Crimes 101

Just as you exercise caution in public spaces, applying the same caution online helps protect your personal information and yourself from scams, spam, and suspicious individuals. Learn the signs of the most common internet crimes and how to avoid them.

Look out for these common crimes online:

1 **Scams** are deceptive practices that aim to obtain money, personal information, or valuables through fraudulent schemes. The most common scams are technical support, fake online stores, romance, and competition scams.

2 **Identity theft** is when someone gains access and use of your personal information, such as passwords, Social Security numbers, or financial data, for criminal purposes.

3 **Phishing** is when scammers trick you into giving away personal information, like passwords or credit card numbers, by pretending to be a trustworthy source in emails or websites.

4 **Viruses** are harmful programs that can "infect" your device. Avoid clicking links from unfamiliar sources, as untrustworthy websites may attempt to download viruses onto your computer.

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