CIDER PRESS

TIPS, TRICKS AND FIXES FOR YOUR APPLE PRODUCTS

QR CODES

A **QR code** (**quick-response code**) is a type of two-dimensional matrix barcode, invented in 1994.] It features black squares on a white background, readable by imaging devices like iPhone cameras.

Are QR Codes Safe to Scan?

Few people give a second thought when scanning a QR code at a restaurant to view a menu or enter credit card information to pay for their meal. But scammers have started to take advantage of our trust in QR codes.

Since early 2022, the FBI has warned that fake QR code scams are on the rise. These scams hijack normally safe QR codes and send you to phishing websites that steal your financial information (or worse).

How Do Fake QR code Scams Work?

Anyone can create a QR code by using a number of free online tools. This makes QR codes easy for businesses to use — but it's also easy for scammers to take advantage of them.

To create a QR code, businesses go to an online QR code generator and input the URL (websites) to which they want to send customers — a menu, login page, survey, or payment processor. The program will then produce a unique QR code that, when scanned, automatically directs customers to wherever the QR code creator wants them to go.

QR code scams take advantage of the fact that the human eye can't "read" a QR code — so we need to trust that the code is taking us to the right URL or doing what it's supposed to do.

But because QR codes are so easy to create, scammers can replace legitimate ones with their own fraudulent codes. These "fake" QR codes redirect you to malicious websites designed to steal your sensitive information. Unbeknownst to you, you could be offering your information to a fake payment terminal or a convincing look-alike login screen.

Scammers put their QR codes in places where people usually expect to find them — like at a restaurant or even in an email — and then wait for someone to scan the code.

Backup Info
Click Here

Find My Card
Click Here

Widget Info
Click Here

September Seminars in the Presentation Hall

9/10 - Banquet Sold Out

9/23 Apple Pay 10:30am

Open Lab 9/11 & 9/25

What happens If You Scan a Fake QR code?

First off, there's technically no such thing as a "fake" QR code. The codes themselves aren't dangerous — it's how they're used that can become problematic.

A QR code doesn't only direct you to a URL (website). Instead, there are a few different ways that scammers use QR codes to steal your personal information or commit fraud:

1. You could be taken to a "phishing website." Scammers create sites that look convincingly similar to what you expect, and then they ask for your sensitive information. But anything you enter — name, contact information, credit card number — goes to the scammer and can be used to <u>steal your identity</u>.

2. Your device could be infected by malware. QR codes can also <u>download malicious software</u> onto your device such as malware, ransomware, and trojans. These viruses can spy on you, steal your sensitive information or files (like photos and videos), or even encrypt your device until you pay a "ransom."

3. The QR code could send an email from your account. QR codes don't just send you to websites. Scammers can also program the codes to open payment sites, follow social media accounts, and send pre-written emails. For example, if you scan a malicious QR code, it can compose and send an email from your account. There are all sorts of ways that scammers can use QR codes to implement <u>phishing attacks</u>.

With nearly 50% of people saying they feel most secure scanning QR codes in restaurants, bars, cafes, and stores, it's easy to see how you could fall prey to a scam.

The 9 Latest QR code Scams

1. QR code scams on parking meters

2. Fake QR codes sent in phishing emails

3. Tampered QR codes in restaurants

4. Fake QR codes sent through the mail

5. QR codes on unexpected package deliveries

6. QR codes at sham COVID-19 testing centers

7. QR codes sent over social media

8. Cryptocurrency QR code scams

9. Fake QR code scanner apps that download malware

This one will take you the clubs website - just point your camera on your iPhone to this QR code

Before you scan a QR code, be sure you're not falling for one of these common scams.

Disclaimer - the opinions expressed and products listed herein are not the opinions of LHAUG and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Officers, Directors, or members of LHAUG.