

Media and Tech Talk
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DID YOU KNOW

New Credit Card Scams

The scam starts with a phone call and the caller is identified as being from the Security and Fraud Department of Visa or MasterCard. The person calling sounds official and begins to take advantage of your fears by stating that your account has been tagged for unusual purchase activity. The caller then asks if you made a purchase to a certain store or vendor for a specific dollar amount. You answer “no,” but then you’re asked to verify your billing address – which you do. The caller explains this is part of a fraud investigation and tells you to call the toll-free 800-number on your credit card if there are any questions, knowing that you’ll not likely call. The caller verifies all of your information; it then becomes easy for the scammers to get the one thing needed to use your credit card account online or by telephone – the three digit security number on the back of the card.

Credit card numbers, along with corresponding names, phone numbers and addresses can be more readily retrieved by criminals from databases. However, the three digit security number on the back of the card is usually only known by the card holder and the credit card company. How do you protect yourself? Never give out any personal identifying information to those who call you. Some of these identifiers include PIN numbers, mother’s maiden name, three digit security code from a credit card, passwords, and Social Security number. If it is truly a fraud report from your credit card company, and then you can call back at the number on your card or on your billing statement. It may take more time, especially if you have to go through phone prompts to speak to the right person, but not nearly as much time as it would take to clean up your credit report after fraud. Keep in mind that similar scenarios can also be attempted through e-mail. Remember, your credit card companies and bank will not ask for verifying personal information or credit card numbers via e-mail.

“Worth-the-Surf” Web Sites

Design Your Own Flag

You're one in 7 billion. Create a flag that conveys your uniqueness. Using the **digital art** on this site, you can make your own flag. First let your mouse wander over the flags that others have created on this site. Read about the dreams reflected in their flag designs. Then design your own flag by combining elements of the flag from your home country, the flag from another country that has affected you and the flag of a country to which you've dreamed of going. Be sure to check out the meaning of colors and shapes in different countries before you create your flag.

<http://www.wearemulticolored.com/>

Explore the World of Science

San Francisco's **Exploratorium** was one of the first science museums to build a site on the World Wide Web. The site features dozens of **online learning activities** and **exhibits**. Students can make a mold terrarium, pinhole projector, telescope or hair hygrometer. They can explore the brain, biodiversity, Antarctica, DNA, frogs, structures or illusions. They can learn about magnetism, electricity, motors, eyeballs, perception, Mars, chocolate, seasonings or the science of cooking, sports and music. And they can search more than **3,000 photos and movies** and watch **Webcasts of science demonstrations** by teachers.

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/explore/handson.html>

Technology Training Schedule

A technology training schedule is being developed for February and March. Topics for the sessions include Noodlebibs, databases, open labs to work on integrating technology into your classroom, and many others. If you have a specific request for training, please contact Jennifer at ext: 5751 or varneyj@charlottenet.org