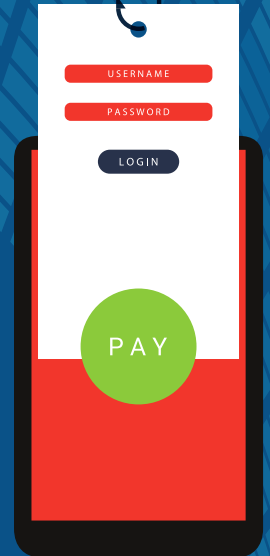




# Holiday Scam Awareness – Tips to Avoid Being Scammed



During the holiday season, scams are common, with fraudsters exploiting festive cheer. These scams may include fake charities, where individuals impersonate genuine charity representatives to request donations. Also prevalent are holiday e-card scams, with malicious links masked as holiday wishes, and 'too-good-to-be-true' deals, luring victims with huge discounts on travel or gifts. Given this, it's crucial to stay alert and validate all solicitations and offers during the holidays.



To protect yourself from scams, Intrada Technologies recommends following these tips:

## 1 Do Your Research

Before making a donation or purchase, verify the legitimacy of the charity or retailer. Use online resources, check customer reviews, or consult reliable directories of charities and businesses.



## 2 Beware of Unsolicited Emails

As a rule of thumb, don't click on links in unsolicited emails. Instead, directly visit the website of the supposed sender to validate any claims made in the email.



## 3 Check URLs Carefully

Only shop or donate on secure websites. The URL should start with 'https' and include a padlock icon.



## 4 Avoid Sharing Personal Information

Never share personal or financial information over the phone or via email unless you initiate the contact and are sure the other party is trustworthy.



## 5 Use Secure Payment Methods

When shopping online, credit cards often provide the best liability protection. Avoid direct money transfers or sending cash.

