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# The story of OnlineOTP

A few months ago I faced an annoying problem. I wanted to redeem my Cathay Pacific Miles but I was unable to log into my account. The SMS OTP never arrived.

My account was tied to my Sri Lankan number, which I've had for many years, yet I never received their OTP.

After wasting an inordinate amount of time, first with their chat support, then with the call support, I was told this was a "known problem".

When I browsed through /r/SriLanka I immediately noticed this was a recurring problem that has gone back for more than a year on a number of services.

The screenshot shows a list of five posts from the subreddit r/SriLanka. The posts are:

- OTP codes not received for Twitch verification (posted 4 days ago)
- Has anyone encountered this new(?) Google verification where we SEND an OTP? (posted 1 day ago)
- Excessive Email phishing and fake OTPs. (posted 10 days ago)
- Ongoing OTP issue in sri lanka (posted 10 days ago)
- OTP issue in Sri Lanka for google (posted 1 day ago)
- Is there a problem with getting the OTP from Hutch? (posted 7 days ago)

I really wanted to scratch this itch. I knew from past experience that jumping to building was not the best solution, but at the same time I wanted to ride the momentum of this idea.

Two weeks later I had an MVP ready to go.

The screenshot shows the OnlineOTP beta landing page. The main heading is "Receive US Verification Codes Anywhere in the World" in bold black and green text. Below it is the subtext "Never miss an OTP again". A paragraph explains the service: "Travelling or living abroad? Get a dedicated US phone number to receive SMS verification codes and OTPs instantly via email, no matter where you are." Two buttons are present: "Browse Available Numbers →" and "Apply for Beta Access →". At the bottom, there's a note: "Have a beta code? Browse numbers and enter it at checkout." Below that are three icons: "Secure Payment", "Instant Delivery", and "No Setup Required".

► See the rest of the page

The screenshot shows the OnlineOTP dashboard. The top bar says "Good afternoon, Jameel263". On the left is a sidebar with "Home", "MY NUMBERS" (showing 1 active number), "+ Add Number", and "Settings". The main area is titled "Recent Messages" and shows two messages from "0x-x1408" and "From: 209...". The first message is dated "Dec 06, 2025" and says "Your Apple Account code is 833495. Do not share it with anyone.". The second message is dated "Nov 28, 2025" and says "Another OTP is 333605".