

## MEDIA REPORT 2

### Summary

In the AP News article, "People are losing more money to scammers than ever before. Here's how to keep yourself safe" written by Cora Lewis and Adriana Morga, it is reporting on how technology leads to more different kinds of scams that will cause people to get taken advantage of and provide information on the different types of scam out there with ways to protect ourselves from those scams. In 2022, consumer losses to fraud totaled \$8.8 billion and that was a 30 percent increase from 2021. From the people who lost money from fraud, younger adults ages 20-29 are reported to lose money more often than older adults ages 70-79. However, when older adults do lose money, they tend to lose more of it than younger adults. Lewis and Morga stated that it's important to not get into a heightened emotional state and to research the company that the scammer claims to be because it will prevent people from losing money or information to scammers.

Lewis and Morga stated that there are many types of scams including romance scams, text and email scams, investment scams, quiz scams, and marketplace scams. These different scams target different kinds of people and can be avoided by being in the correct headspace and by doing further research. Romance scams often target lonely/isolated individuals and can take place over years. Lewis and Morga recommend that for this scam to not download another app like WhatsApp to communicate or to notice if the scammer attempts to isolate you from family or friends or if it gets romantic very quickly. Text and email scams happen to anyone who uses text messages/emails and the scammer would often include an unusual link. It's recommended to not click on the link, instead, the user should go to the site in question directly and call the number directly from the official site. Investment scams are get-rich-quick schemes that lure targets through social media and online ads. Investment scammers would often have different forms of testimony that support their investment work. It is recommended to research

the company by searching for the company's name and looking for terms like “review” or “scam”. Quiz scams occur in Google search results or social media sites. Although the quiz may seem harmless asking benign-seeming questions, scammers can use the personal information to share security questions from your accounts or hack your social media to send malware to your contacts. To prevent this type of scam, it is recommended to avoid online quizzes entirely or input random answers for the security questions. Marketplace scams occur when buying or selling products on social media sites. To avoid being scammed, it is recommended to check the buyers’ profiles, not share codes sent to your phone or email, and avoid accepting online payments from unknown individuals. When buying on an online marketplace, it is recommended to research the seller and look for whether the profile is verified, the kinds of reviews, and the terms and conditions of the purchase.

#### Personal Opinion

Overall, I strongly agree with the fact that due to technology scams have become more and more common because, with the digital economy, scammers can now reach targets by social media, text, phone, email, online payment platforms, apps, and marketplaces. I also agree with all the recommendations to avoid the different types of scams and thought the information in the article helped me understand how scams operate. To reduce the number of scams, I believe that big tech companies that the scams take place in and the government should also get more involved in stopping scams online because the companies and scammers are benefiting from the people, while people end up losing money and valuable information. To reduce the number of scams, Big tech companies should work with local law enforcement to arrest scammers and utilize software to detect suspicious activity from scammers. Although even with all these anti-scam implementations, I believe scammers will still exist because the internet is a vast and uncontrollable environment.

### Citation

Lewis, C., & Morga, A. "People are losing more money to scammers than ever before. Here's how to keep yourself safe AP NEWS. Associated Press, August 7, 2023.

<https://apnews.com/article/scams-phishing-robocalls-facebook-marketplace-291255fc54f4bef161cb6155af562d96>