

Avoid End of Year Shopping Frauds

Digital fraud on the rise

- 1** In **Panama**, attempted fraud using fake messages and emails increased by 224% in 2024 compared to 2023.
- 2** Thirty percent of **Costa Rican** households have experienced attempted digital fraud since the beginning of the pandemic, with a notable increase during the holiday season.
- 3** During this time of year, the risk of becoming a victim of e-commerce fraud increases between 15% and 20% in countries such as the **United States**.



How can you shop safely online?



1. Shop at trusted sites

Buy only from reputable sites. Make sure the seller is trustworthy and that the website address starts with 'https:'. Make sure the address is spelled correctly. For example: Amazon.com, not Amaz0n.com.

2. Beware of suspicious offers

Research the seller thoroughly before making a purchase. Don't believe deals that seem too good to be true. Compare prices with reputable stores to verify the legitimacy of the offers. Be just as, if not more, suspicious in the digital world as you would be shopping in a mall.



3. Use secure payment methods

Preferably, use prepaid credit cards for greater protection against fraud. You can also use payment methods such as "Apple Pay" or "Google Wallet" that offer an additional level of security.

4. Connect to the Internet from trusted networks

Avoid making purchases at public WiFi Internet cafes or similar locations, as they may not have the necessary security measures in place.

5. **Keep your devices and applications up to date**

Update your operating system and applications regularly to avoid being vulnerable to cyber attacks.



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