

# AVOID HOLIDAY SEASON SCAMS



The holidays are among the busiest times of the year for e-commerce and online shopping. At this peak time of online activity, seasonal sales and deals from retailers, scammers are looking to take advantage of unaware shoppers.

Cybercriminals are sure to use the holiday season to their advantage, but there are ways to avoid being scammed. Here's an overview of the most common seasonal scams and red flags to watch for.

### **Fake shipping or postal notifications:**

These types of phishing attacks are most common during the holidays, but with the prevalence of online shopping, it's good to keep an eye out year-round. Scammers send fake notifications that appear to come from postal service companies such as FedEx or UPS. The emails include dangerous links that, if clicked, could install malware on your device or take you to a fake login page where your credentials will be stolen.

To avoid these scams, always log in to your online account or service through your browser—not through links in unexpected emails.

### **Scam travel deals and offers:**

Scammers know their potential victims travel for holidays throughout the year. Cybercriminals send emails offering fake travel deals from well-known travel sites.

They're even known to create phony websites for cheap hotels and flights so they can rob you of your money.

What can you do? When something seems too good to be true, it probably is. Never click on links in emails you aren't expecting.

Before booking a trip through an unfamiliar service, do your research and ensure the company is legitimate.

### **Social media deals and sales:**

A paid advertisement you see in your social media feed might seem trustworthy, but be warned: Anyone can pay to put an ad on social media. During holidays and popular shopping seasons, fraudsters buy ads that offer appealing deals—considering that social media ads target the buyer market. The ads typically contain phishing links that lead to fraudulent websites where they will steal your credit card data. Even if the malicious ad is reported and removed, criminals typically only need one victim to fall for their trick to make it worth their investment.

Always hover your mouse over links and URLs before clicking to check whether the URL will take you to a phishing site. If a social media ad appears to be from a company you're familiar with, check the company's website instead of clicking on links from the ad.

During this busy shopping season, you're likely to find deals from your favorite retailers, but be aware, too, of the risks from phishing and scams. Diligence and cautious browsing can help you avoid being tricked. 🚧

ENJOY THE  
HOLIDAYS!

## Holiday Movies

Your favorite holiday tradition returned: *Countdown to Christmas* on the Hallmark Channel! Watch holiday movies 24/7,

with all NEW premieres each weekend until Christmas.

This channel is available in Two Star and Choice WiFi TV plans, and above.

## Holiday Hours

Our local service centers will be closed Friday, December 25, 2020 for Christmas.

They will also be closed Friday, January 1, 2021 for New Year's. Technical Support will be available at 877.290.0560 and via online chat at arvig.net.

## Monthly Newsletter

Thank you to all who answered our survey in September. Due to the response, it's been decided to discontinue the newsletter. Sign up for our weekly blog at arvig.net/blog to read similar articles and the latest information on scams, technology and trends. Send comments or questions to marketing@arvig.com or mail them to:

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# 6 Ways to OPTIMIZE YOUR INTERNET at Home

Last month, we shared the first 3 tips: place your router in a central location, use an Ethernet cable for a wired connection and switch off devices you're not using.

THE LAST 3 TIPS to improve your signal strength, get the best available speeds and optimize your home network:

## 4 MANAGE AND PRIORITIZE

Downloading and streaming are bandwidth-intensive. Download large files such as movies, music and audiobooks during off-peak traffic times. Save files to your hard drive. You'll still be able to enjoy them anytime—offline—without gobbling up bandwidth. If you can, schedule automatic system updates on your devices for overnight, when the network is less busy.



## 6 CONSIDER A MANAGED OPTION

Managed Wi-Fi service leaves set-up, maintenance and troubleshooting with your service provider. You can get help setting up your router, adding devices and securing the best signal.



## 5 TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP

If you're still struggling with wireless dead zones or hard-to-reach corners of your home, range extenders, repeaters and mesh networks can help. Range extenders and repeaters grab existing Wi-Fi signals from your router and re-broadcasts them. Mesh networks use a series of nodes set up in the home to distribute a wireless signal.



View the entire infographic at [arvig.net/connected](https://arvig.net/connected).



## PUT WI-FI ON YOUR WISH LIST

As you gather around the tree with family and friends this holiday season, take a moment to think about those little blinking lights.

**Those other blinking lights—the ones from your wireless router.** It's easy to forget about our routers—especially at that moment of peak excitement after unwrapping the new device you've had your eye on all year. But remember, new gadgets mean new demands on your network. There's nothing wrong with adding to your network—the more, the merrier. And you're not alone in wanting all of your holiday company to get the most from your Wi-Fi, but a cheer-worthy online experience depends on bandwidth, signal strength and technology that's up to the task. Managed Wi-Fi from Arvig is the gift that keeps on giving. We'll help you connect new devices, resolve connection issues and maintain the best available signal. And when it comes time for a new router, we have you covered. 🎁

**Unwrap, unbox and connect without worry this season!**



Managed Wi-Fi 1X offers approximately 2,500 square feet of wireless coverage with optimal device placement for \$7 per month. More coverage is available for an additional small, monthly fee. Pricing is valid for Arvig internet customers. Based on Arvig service area; some restrictions apply. ©Arvig 2020

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