

Expert Scam Defense Training: How to Protect Your IRA Investments

 **The Entrust Group** X  **DataArt**



The Entrust Group ("Entrust") does **not** provide investment advice or endorse any products.

All information and materials are for **educational purposes only**. All parties are encouraged to consult with their attorneys, accountants and financial advisors before entering any type of investment.

Today's Agenda

- ❖ Reviewing the Problem
- ❖ Visualizing Top Scams
- ❖ Explaining How to Protect Yourself
- ❖ Testing What We've Learned
- ❖ Answering Your Questions





Meet **Your Host**



Tony Unkel



9 Years at Entrust



Educates investors and professionals
on tax-preferred retirement accounts
and alternative investments

About **Speaker**



Yelyzaveta Chernysh

Information Security Manager at DataArt

Over 8 years of experience in Information Security

[LinkedIn](#)

Why Are We Here?

We are here to see how scammers operate & how a few simple steps can keep us safe

In 2023, more than 100,000 Americans over age 60 reported being scammed, losing an average of \$33,915 each (CNN, CBS News), and in 2024 seniors lost a record \$4.9 billion to fraud from over 147,000 complaints, a 43% jump from the year before (AARP, FBI).



Real Life Cases



Case 1: Tech Support Scam

The scammer, pretending to be a federal agent and claiming to help the senior citizen recover money previously stolen from his account, instead took the man's savings and ran. \$280,000 was stolen from the victim's Vanguard account.

Case 2: Fidelity Fake Messages

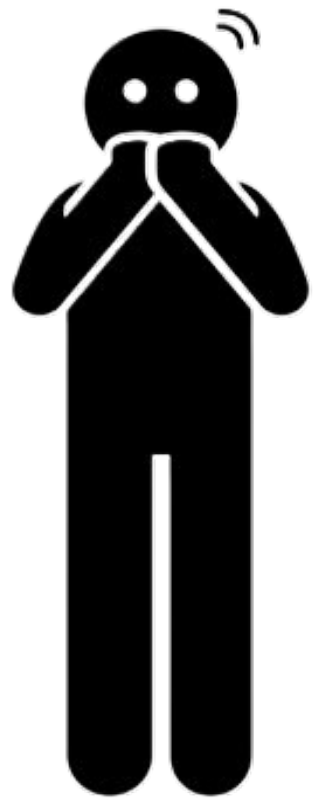
Fraudsters send fake texts claiming suspicious account activity, often threatening immediate account blocks. They impersonate financial institutions, include malicious links to steal login credentials, and pressure victims to act quickly.

Case 3: FBI warnings about "The Phantom Hacker"

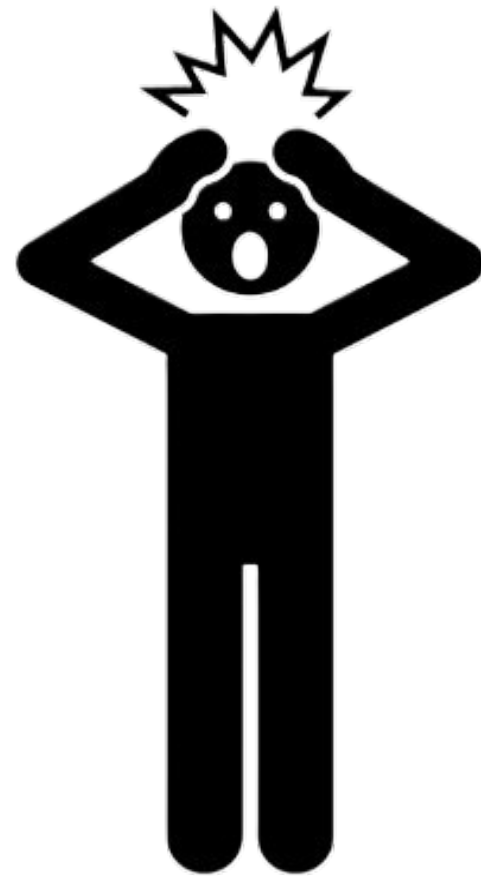
It starts with a tech support scam warning the victim that their accounts are at risk. Then a scammer posing as a government official contacts them, claiming there is an urgent legal or tax issue. They pressure the victim to transfer money or give account access, claiming it's necessary to avoid fines, arrest, or frozen accounts.

How is it **Possible?**

Emotions are the key!



**Fear and
Anxiety**



**Urgency
and Pressure**



**Greed and
Excitement**

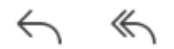


Curiosity

Fake Retirement Fund Email



Immediate Action Required: Unusual Activity Detected on Your Account



Retirement Fund Support <support@entrusstgroup.com>

To: Elizaveta Chernysh

Today at 15

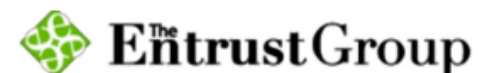
Dear Elizaveta Chernysh,

We have noticed unusual activity on your retirement account, which may indicate unauthorized access. To protect your account, please log in immediately and verify your information.

[Log In Now](#)

Failure to do so may result in temporary suspension of your account.
Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Retirement Fund Security Team



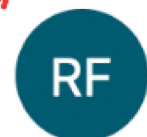
Fake Retirement Fund Email



Tip: Never click links in emails. Type the website yourself or call the official number.

Urgency

Immediate Action Required: Unusual Activity Detected on Your Account



Retirement Fund Support <support@entrusstgroup.com>

To: Elizaveta Chernysh



Today at 15

Typos in the sender's email

Dear Elizaveta Chernysh,

We have noticed unusual activity on your retirement account, which may indicate unauthorized access. To protect your account, please log in immediately and verify your information.

[Log In Now](#)

Suspicious link

<https://www.doctorican.de/eur/e26666fd-a875-4064->

Urgency

Failure to do so may result in temporary suspension of your account.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Attempt to raise a panic or fear

Sincerely,
Retirement Fund Security Team



Usage of a well-known company logo to establish trust

Fake IRS or Government Threat



Urgent: Immediate Tax Payment Required or Arrest Warrant Issued

← ⏪ ⏩

LT

IRS Tax Department <tax@lrs-payment.com>
To: Elizaveta Chernysh

Today at 20:55

Dear Elizaveta Chernysh,

Our records show that you owe overdue taxes totaling \$3,450. Immediate payment is required to avoid arrest and legal action.

You must pay within 24 hours to settle your debt. Failure to do so will result in:

- Suspension of your driver's license
- Arrest by local authorities
- Suspension of your federal benefits
- Property liens and bank account levies

Payment Instructions:

Send a wire transfer to the following account:

- **Bank:** National Trust Bank
- **Account Name:** IRS Tax Collection
- **Account Number:** 123456789
- **Routing Number:** 987654321

Include your full name and Social Security Number as the payment reference.

If we do not receive payment by the deadline, we will begin enforcement actions immediately.

For questions, contact the IRS Payment Help Desk at [1-866-555-9876](tel:1-866-555-9876).

Sincerely,
IRS Collections Department

Fake IRS or Government Threat



Urgent: Immediate Tax Payment Required or Arrest Warrant Issued

LT

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To: Elizaveta Chernysh

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Sincerely,
IRS Collections Department

Non-official suspicious email

Urgency

Attempt to raise a panic or fear

Unusual payment method

Non-official phone number

Tips:

- Keep calm.
- Do not make any fast decisions.
- Call the IRS directly if unsure.

Investment Opportunity Scam



Guaranteed 20% Monthly Returns – Limited Time Offer!



Wealth Growth Partners <contact@wealthgrowthnow.com>

To: Elizaveta Chernysh



Today at 20:41

Dear Valued Investor,

Are you ready to secure your financial future? We're offering an exclusive investment opportunity with **guaranteed 20% monthly returns** — no risk involved!

This limited-time offer is designed especially for retirees looking to maximize their earnings safely and quickly.

Why invest with us?

- 20% guaranteed monthly returns
- Fully insured and regulated investment fund
- Expert team with 20+ years of experience
- Easy online setup — start earning today!

Don't miss out! Spaces are filling fast. Click below to reserve your spot:

[Invest Now and Grow Your Savings!](#)

<https://www.shareholds.com/eur/e26666fd-a875-4064->

Make the smart choice — your retirement deserves it.

Sincerely,
The Wealth Growth Partners Team

Investment Opportunity Scam



Guaranteed 20% Monthly Returns – Limited Time Offer!

 **Wealth Growth Partners** <contact@wealthgrowthnow.com>
To: Elizaveta Chernysh

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[Invest Now and Grow Your Savings!](#)

<https://www.shareholds.com/eur/e26666fd-a875-4064->

Make the smart choice — your retirement deserves it.

Sincerely,
The Wealth Growth Partners Team

The offer is too good to be true

A quick decision must be made

The link leads to a malicious site

Tips:

- If it sounds too good to be true, it is.
- Talk to your advisor.

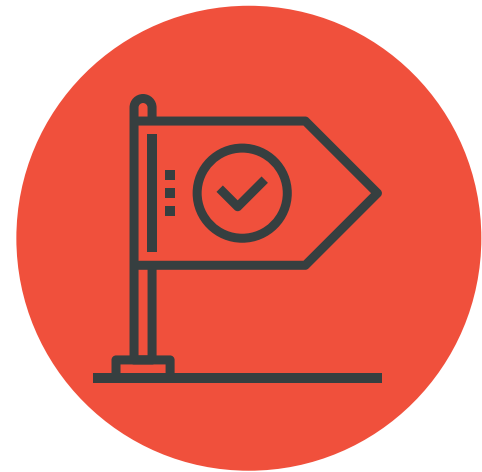
Urgent Phone Call



Scenario: You receive an urgent call from a fake Entrust employee who tries to make you panic and take immediate action with your account.

Tip: Hang up. Call the company on their usual support number to check

Red Flags Summary

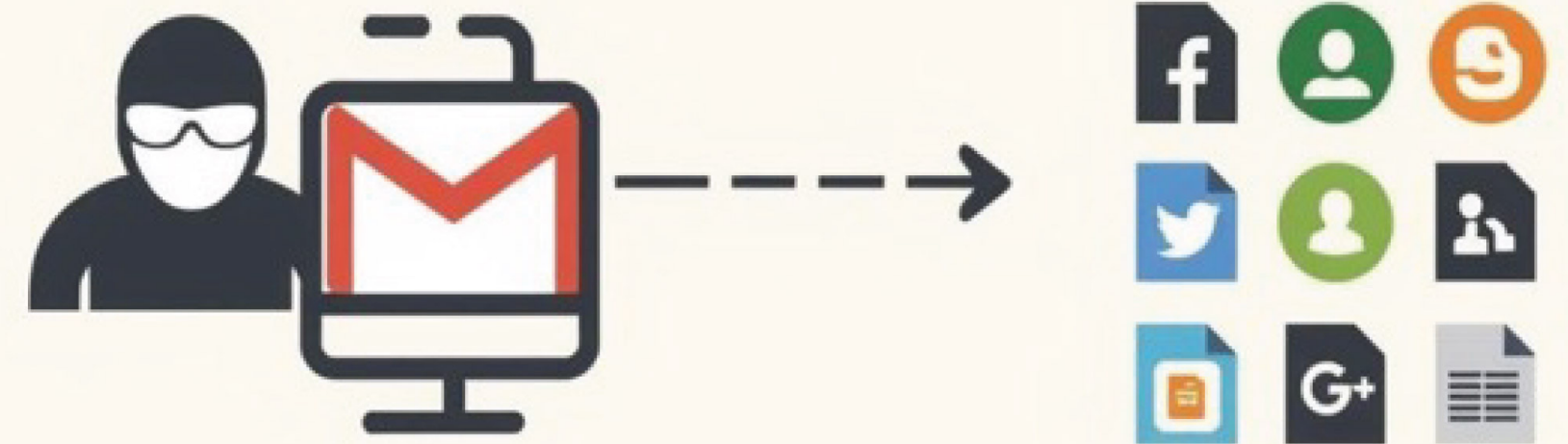


- Spelling mistakes or strange wording
- Unknown senders or odd email addresses
- Links that look “off” (e.g., chase-bank-login123.com)
- Urgent language: “Act now!”
- Unusual Payment Methods
- Requests for Sensitive Information
- Offer is too good to be true

Protect Your E-Mail



Your email account is a treasure for hackers



Once an attacker gains access to your mailbox, they may gather a lot of sensitive information and easily get access to your other accounts like retirement account or social media accounts.

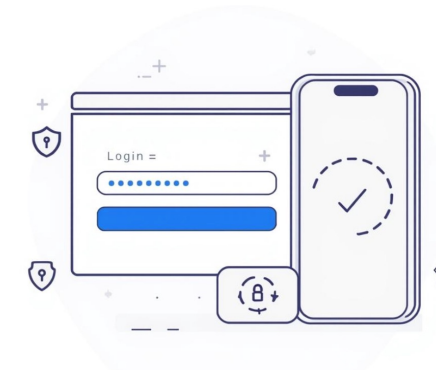
How to **Protect Your** Email **Account**



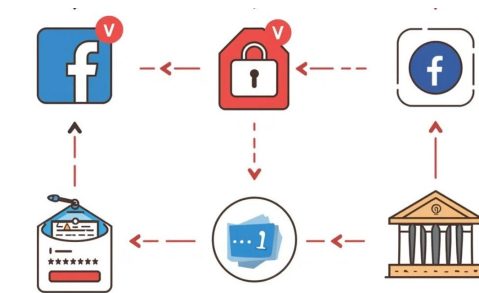
Make a strong password.
Try taking the first letters of
your favorite song and
adding some numbers, or
create a long phrase you'll
remember (spaces included)



Don't write your password
down in plain text. Leave
yourself a hint only you'd
get, or use a password
manager.

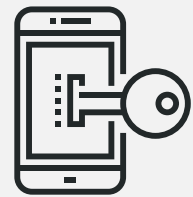


Set up two-factor
authentication for your
account. You'll need to enter a
code in addition to your
password when logging in.



Do not use the same
password for multiple
accounts

Protect Your Phone Number – Tips



Don't share your phone number online (like Facebook comments).



Criminals may try SIM Swaps (stealing your phone number).



Ask your carrier (Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, etc.) to put a PIN on your account. That way, no one can move your number without it.

If You've Been Scammed



Being scammed can feel embarrassing, but it's nothing to be ashamed of.

Don't wait – Act:



Report the scam immediately — contact your bank, investment custodian, or any other financial institution involved, and file a police report if money was lost.



Notify the Internet Crime Complaint Center:

<https://www.ic3.gov/>



Keep records of your losses and reports. In some cases, scam-related losses may qualify as a theft loss deduction on your taxes. See IRS Publication 547:

<https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-publication-547>

Quiz

Final Takeaways



Scammers want
your money and
information



Slow down,
double-check,
and never let
anyone rush you



When in doubt:
Call the real
company.

Let's Wrap Up





What's **Next?**

Sending you replay & additional resources

Our follow-up email will include video replay, slides, and more education

Register for November's Webinar

From the Ground Up: Mobile Home Park Investing With Your IRA





What's Next?

Need more information on SDIRAs?

Visit our website and Learning Center

Follow us on social media for updates





Stay Connected



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at DataArt

 LinkedIn: Yelyzaveta Chernysh



Question & Answer Session

Thank you!