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Volume 18, Issue 8

August 2026

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YEARS
of Service and
Satisfied
Customers!**



"As a business owner, you don't have time to waste on technical and operational issues.

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Fred Holsager,
IT Director
Holsager Technology Services
and
Publisher of
The Tech Insider

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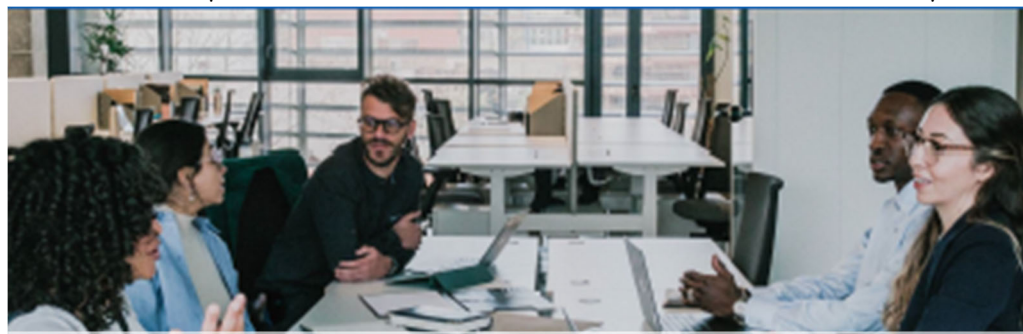
Snapple Real Fact #233

"There are seven letters that look the same upside down as right side up."

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The Tech Insider

"Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier and More Profitably"



QR CODE SCAMS: WHAT THEY ARE AND HOW TO SPOT THEM

QR codes are part of everyday business now. You scan them for menus, payments, Wi-Fi, and shared files. Scammers know that, and they've started hiding their links inside QR codes to get past the security that would normally catch a bad link in an email.

What a QR code scam is

A QR code scam, sometimes called "quishing," swaps a written link for a QR code. You scan it with your phone, it opens a web page, and you land on a fake login or payment screen built to steal your details. The QR code is only the way the scammer gets you there. The page on the other end is the same kind of fake you'd see in any phishing attack, made to look like Microsoft 365 or your bank.

Why QR code scams get past your security

Two things make these scams effective. First, the malicious link is hidden inside an image.

Most email security tools scan the text of a message for known bad links. A QR code is a picture, so the link inside it is not text the filter can read. The UK's National Cyber Security Centre points out that not all

phishing-detection tools scan images, which is the reason criminals started using QR codes to disguise their links in the first place.

Second, scanning a code moves you onto your phone. Your work computer probably has web filtering, endpoint protection, and DNS controls that block known bad sites. Your personal phone usually has none of that. So, the moment you scan, you step outside the protection your business pays for, often without realizing it happened.

Common QR scams to watch for

- ◆ A fake "scan to keep your account active" email, often from "Microsoft" or "IT."
- ◆ A QR code inside a PDF invoice, with a "scan to pay" prompt that sends your money to the scammer.
- ◆ A sticker placed over a real QR code on a parking meter or payment terminal.

(Continued on page 2)



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Quotations

"You must be single-minded. Drive for the one thing on which you have decided."

—Gen. George S. Patton

"There's few things that get you over your own crap more than working hard."

—Adam Savage

"If I am jumping into any situation, I'm thinking I am going to be successful. I am not thinking about what happens if I fail."

—Michael Jordan

"Push yourself again and again. Don't give an inch until the final buzzer sounds."

—Larry Bird

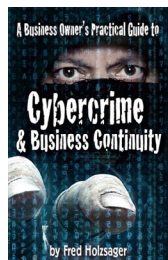
"If I had eight hours to chop down a tree, I'd spend six hours sharpening my ax."

—Abraham Lincoln

"What one does is what counts. Not what one had the intention of doing."

—Pablo Picasso

Read Fred's Book!



If you would like to have us speak to your organization and give away some free copies to attendees, give us a call. For more details on the contents and how to get your own copy, please visit our special web page at www.tech4now.com/cybercrime

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Ask us about our fixed price services HTS Insight Hassle-Free Agreements—Computer Support at a flat monthly fee you can budget for just like rent!

QR Code Scams: What They Are and How To Spot Them

(Continued from page 1)

How common are QR code scams?

The volume is climbing fast. In its report on email threats for the first quarter of 2026, Microsoft said it detected around 8.3 billion email-based phishing threats in those three months.

QR code phishing rose 146% across the quarter, from 7.6 million attacks in January to 18.7 million in March. By the end of the quarter it had reached its highest monthly volume in at least a year. Microsoft also found that most of these attacks arrived as PDF attachments, growing from 65% of QR code attacks in January to 70% in March.

How to protect your business from QR code scams

Protecting yourself against Quishing comes down to a few habits:

- ◆ Treat a QR code in an email with the **same caution as a strange link**, especially if it asks you to log in or pay.

"The volume [of QR Code Scams] is climbing fast. In its report on email threats for the first quarter of 2026, Microsoft said it detected around 8.3 billion email-based phishing threats in those three months."

QUICK SECURITY TIP: If you have ever enrolled for a government ID, you may have signed up for ID.me. On occasion, ID.me may contact you via email or text to let you know about an update or changes in the programs affecting you.

It is CRITICAL to confirm your messages are sent from the actual sender. To confirm it, you must look at the sender's address. It should compare with the name you typically associate with the government entity. Look at the sender's name in arrow brackets in the sample shown. Do you see an address like <hello@id.me>?

The new message you received is from <hugoiglesias@consultora-austral.com.ar>, this is an Argentina email address with a Spanish name. If you apply common sense, would you trust this email? Notice, in addition to the aforementioned, that there is an attachment. If it is a Financial Document, wouldn't you expect it to indicate your name as a salutation? Maybe the attachment IS for you, but not by name—**Can you trust to open it?**

Tips:

- 🔒 Have you read the entire message PRIOR to taking any action such as clicking on an attachment? If you read the bottom text, you would have understood you could login, then download the statement. If that's the case, what is the attachment for?
- 🔒 Again, **ALWAYS** consider the **RED FLAGS** in any email or text prior to clicking on anything:
 - X. The sample clearly has a bogus name next to the email sender's name plus it's sent as urgent (!);
 - X. There is a financial attachment being provided to you, so why isn't your name in any salutation?
 - X. There is a notice on the bottom telling you to login to download your statement, so what is being attached to your email? → Three STRIKES, and you're OUT!! Time to delete it.
- 🔒 If you fear you have made a bad decision, don't be quiet about it, ask your IT provider or a tech-savvy friend what to do. The longer it lingers, the more potential damage that will occur.

Considerations:

- 👤 Exercise caution with communications from known senders or legitimate services or platforms.
- 👤 Confirm requests from senders using contact information obtained from verified, official sources before taking action, such as clicking links, opening attachments, and providing personal or financial information. You could also navigate directly to the legitimate [ID.me](https://www.id.me) website and review their [FAQs](#).
- 👤 If sensitive information was submitted, review the [Identity Theft and Compromised PII NJCCIC Informational Report](#) for additional recommendations and resources.

- ◆ Before you act, **check the web address** your phone previews when you scan. If it isn't the site you expected, close it.

- ◆ **When in doubt, skip the code** and go to the site directly by typing the address yourself.

- ◆ **Use phishing-resistant MFA**, so a stolen password is harder to use.

- ◆ **Tell your team what these look like**, with a real example, because most people have never been warned about this.

What to do if someone already scanned one

If you or someone on your team scanned a QR code and entered details on the page that opened:

1. Change the password for that account right away, along with any other account that used the same password.
2. Confirm multi-factor authentication is turned on for the account.
3. Tell whoever manages your IT, so they can check for unusual sign-ins.
4. If card or banking details were entered, call the bank and watch the account closely.

Acting quickly limits what an attacker can do with the details they have captured.

ID.me <hugoiglesias@consultora-austral.com.ar>
To [REDACTED] !

New Financial Document Available.

10:10 AM

📎 1 attachment ▶

ID.me

Your Latest Statement Is Ready to View

When it's convenient for you, log in to your account to securely access, save, or download the most recent version of your statement.

More Cringeworthy and Ponderances from Dad

How many times have you heard a quick one or two liner that made you cringe or ponder? How about some more? *Many memes are from shared Facebook groups.*

☺ What's the difference between the Bird Flu and Swine Flu? One requires "tweetment" and the other requires "Oinkment."

☺ Marriage is not a word, it is a sentence. A Life Sentence.

☺ There are three stages of SEX in married life: Tri-weekly, try weekly and try weakly.

☺ A pharmacy delivery man walks into a bar. All the patrons fall to the floor. Turns out he was delivering stool softener.

☺ Teacher: If A is for Apple and B is for Banana, what is C for? Little Johnny: Plastic explosives.

☺ What do they call the 4th of July in nursing homes? In Depends Day.

☺ I once dated a girl who had a twin, and people always asked me how I could tell them apart. It was easy... Alison painted her nails red and... Bob had a beard.

☺ My friend, Jay, just had twin daughters and wanted to name them after himself. I suggested he use Kaye and Elle.

☺ I bought a wooden car. It's got a wooden engine, wooden doors, wooden seats, wooden wheels, even a wooden key. Guess what? Wooden start.

☺ Me: At work, I'm known as "The Computer."
Wife: Because you go to sleep if left unattended for 15 minutes.

☺ Bunny colonoscopy puns are great, but there's no way I'm going down that rabbit hole.

☺ A man goes to the Psychiatrist and the Psychiatrist says, "What's the problem?"
The man says, "I think I am becoming a kleptomaniac."
The Psychiatrist says, "Here, take these tablets, and if you're no better in a week... bring me a flat-screen TV."

☺ Never in the history of calm down has anyone calmed down by being told to calm down.

☺ Working at an unemployment office has to be a tense job... knowing, if you get fired, you still have to come in the next day.

☺ What do you call a monkey holding a firecracker? A Baboom!

☺ It's a good day. The bulb finally burned out on my check engine light.

☺ An older man, not in the best of physical condition, asked a trainer in the gym, "I want to impress a beautiful young girl. Which machine should I use?" The trainer replied, "Use the ATM machine outside!"

☺ My teacher once told me I had nothing but twigs for brains... That comment still sticks in my mind.

☺ I asked my son why he never got me one of those "World's Greatest Dad" mugs. He said, "I haven't met all the other dads."

☺ Cars come with so many modern conveniences these days... when I put mine in reverse, it even showed me a movie of a person getting run over. What will they think of next?

NOTE: It is best to read this column while at your computer for a better understanding of the content presented. *Enjoy!*

Quick Productivity Tips

Did you know that your operating system provides you with an invisible friend known as the **Clipboard**. In this article, we'll show you some powerful methods in which you can engage with the Clipboard to save yourself time and keystrokes.

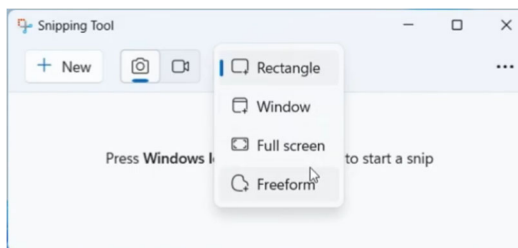
Your first step with the Clipboard is to **highlight** some text in a word document or any text/characters you choose in any desktop application. Highlighting is when you place your mouse or cursor at the beginning of the text and either drag the mouse with the active button depressed to highlight the text OR position the cursor, again, at the start of the text, then WHILE YOU DEPRESS THE SHIFT KEY, (once selected, release the cursor and the shift key) to highlight the text. Now, with the text highlighted, DEPRESS the CTRL + C (for Copy). You have copied the text to the clipboard. You may now paste it by moving your mouse or keyboard cursor to a second location and DEPRESS the CTRL+V (Insert) to paste it. You could also have simply held down the highlighted text, DE-PRESSED the CTRL key and dragged your text with a mouse. This would have, effectively, copied the same text to a new location (but without engaging the clipboard).

What About Re-using My Old Submissions to the Clipboard?

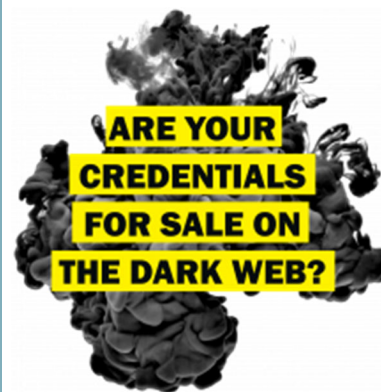
Time to show you something you may like... You use the **Windows key** () + **V** (summons the **Emoji** and more pop-up dialogue box) - Try it now and see how you now have a history of your copied text for the past few day readily available (not to mention tons of emojis). Please be advised that not all emojis will appear as desired in all documents, some may only appear as empty boxes, so test them before you print

using them (it may save you some frustration). One other detail I had overlooked mentioning is that you can also capture screen images such as still pictures scraped from videos or photos, large captures of spreadsheets, text or documents, too! Simply open the **Snipping Tool**.

The Snipping Tool has been around for a while, but now it gives you more options as you open and work with it. It provides you with the ability to summon it up using  + Shift + S to "Start a Snip" or  + Shift + R



to "Start a Recording." You may also select to choose a rectangle for snipping, just move your mouse to any corner and drag it diagonally to marquee it in a box; if you release the active mouse button, the image will be sent to your clipboard. Paste it wherever you wish. Choosing "Window" will capture the Window you click on and Full Screen will capture the **Active** screen (in case you have more than one monitor). Freeform will allow you to capture an image or text without needing to move at right angles. Aside from these options, you may also use a timer to capture a snip. It also provides you with a **Text extractor** to convert the image of text into actual text using Advanced Character Recognition (ACR) software landing your text in the Clipboard. All this may also be accessed in its own application which even has its own Settings in the tool



Find Out
with a Complimentary
Dark Web Scan

Did you know...?

- Cyber-attacks have continued to grow in cost, size, and impact—causing 60% of SMBs to go out of business within 6 months of a cyber incident.

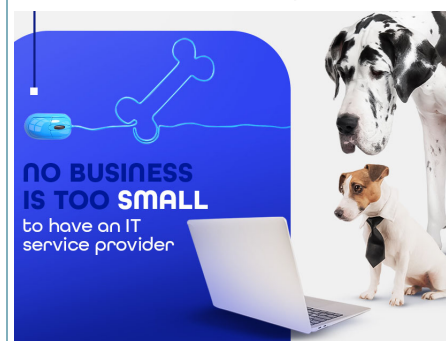
- Over 80% of data breaches leverage stolen passwords as the principal attack vector—often acquired on the **Dark Web**.

- Far too often, companies that have had their credentials compromised and sold on the Dark Web don't know it until they have been informed by law enforcement—but then, it's too late.

- To help keep your critical business assets safe from the compromises that lead to breach and theft, we are offering a complimentary, one-time scan with **Dark Web ID™ Credential Monitoring**.

If you are interested in learning more about the risks involved in ignoring your password security, give us a call at (201) 797-5050 or visit our website at

<https://www.tech4now.com/dwid> or www.tech4now.com/bullphish



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"Some companies approach you with a we know it all position, but in working with Holzager Technology Services, we have found that they listen to us to learn about how we work, what we do, and what the problem may be. This partnership in maintaining our business has raised them from 'IT Guys' to 'Trusted Advisors'."—Bob Weissman, P.E., L.S., Weissman Engineering Co., P.C. Midland Park, NJ

August 2026

The Lighter Side...

Family Lineage

James came home from college in tears, "Mom, am I adopted?"

"No, of course not!" replied his mother, "Why would you think such a thing?"

James showed his genealogy DNA results to his mom. No match for any of his relatives, and some strong matches for a family that lived on the other side of town. Shocked, his mother called her husband, "Honey, James' did a DNA test, and I don't know how to say this, but he might not be our son."

"Obviously," said the father.

"What do you mean?" said Mom.

"Well, it was your idea in the first place," the husband continued. "Remember that first night in the hospital when the baby did nothing but scream and cry and cry and scream and cry on and on. Then you looked at me and asked me, 'to change him.'?"

-Accredited to *How To Kill an Hour* (Facebook)

Exploring In Paris

Jones, a furniture dealer from Manhattan, decided to expand the line of furniture in his store, so he decided to go to Paris to see what he could find.

After arriving in Paris, he visited with some manufacturers and selected a line that he thought would sell well back home. To celebrate the new acquisition, he decided to visit a small bistro and have a glass of wine.

As he sat enjoying his wine, he noticed that the small place was quite crowded, and that the other chair at his table was the only vacant seat in the house.

Before long, a very beautiful young Parisian girl came to his table, asked him something in French (which Jones could not understand), so he motioned to the vacant chair and invited her to sit down.

He tried to speak to her in English, but she did not speak his language. After a couple of minutes of trying to communicate with her, he took a napkin, drew a picture of a wine glass, and showed it to her. She nodded, so he ordered a glass of wine for her.

After sitting together at the table for a while, he took another napkin, and drew a picture of a plate with food on it, and she nodded. They left the bistro and found a quiet café that featured a small group playing romantic music.

They ordered dinner, after which he took another napkin and drew a picture of a couple dancing. She nodded, and they got up to dance. They danced until the café closed and the band packed up.

Back at their table, the young lady took a napkin and drew a picture of a four-poster bed.

To this day, Jones has no idea how she figured out he was in the furniture business.

Why English Is Hard To Learn

-I did not object to the object.

-The dump was so full it had to refuse more refuse.

-He could lead if he were to get the lead out.

-We must polish the Polish furniture.

-They were too close to the door to close it.

-Since there was no time like the present, he thought he would present the present.

-When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.

-The bandage was wound around the wound.

-The insurance was invalid for the invalid.

-The buck does funny things when does are present.

-After a number of injections my jaw got number.

-The farm was used to produce produce.

-I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.

-A bass was painted on the head of a bass drum.