

November 2017 Security Newsletter

On-Line Surveys

*“Earn \$140 per week! Earn \$560 a month! Earn \$6,000 a year!
All by sitting home and filling out surveys.”*

Is this too good to be true?

Yes. Although, some companies use online surveys for market research, those surveys are not a good way to spend your time. Many online surveys are scams designed to steal your personal information.

Here’s how the scam works: Scammers send out emails to thousands of people (spam) and promise quick money for little effort. They claim you need to spend only a few minutes and you’ll earn excellent money. Of course, you have to pay the “low” price of \$34.95 to learn how to do this.

Their goal is to get thousands of people paying \$34.95 (or whatever amount is charged) for their personal information.

This would be fine if they actually delivered what they promised. However, the vast majority of these online survey products are worthless.

You may think: “I’ll go online and find a site that screens out the scammers and ranks paid survey sites. That way I’ll find the legitimate online survey companies and work for them.”

Unfortunately, many of these “ranking” sites may actually be middlemen who are paid by the survey companies for referrals. Often, whoever pays the most to the ranking site gets the highest rating. So, scammer’s websites could be at the top of the ratings.

Are there legitimate online survey companies? Yes, there must be, but unfortunately, it’s almost impossible to find them. Just Google “online surveys for money.” You’ll get nearly 5,000,000 results. Which one or two are legitimate? And which ones will just take your money? Do you want to get scammed to find out?

If you do find a legitimate online survey that pays you for your time and opinion, how much can you realistically expect to earn doing online surveys? Legitimate online surveys often are quite long, which means they take more than a few minutes to complete.

Scambusters.com had an extremely skilled and fast typist fill out an on-line survey for money. Comparing the time it took her to complete the work to the money she received, they determined she earned about 37 cents an hour!

It should be obvious that we’re not talking about free online surveys and polls you find on many websites.

Bottom Line: Ignore *all* spam solicitations. They are all scams. And it’s best to avoid online surveys altogether.