



Bureau of Consumer Protection
Division of Marketing Practices

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20580

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August 31, 2026

Sent Via Abuse Webform
Hetzner Online GmbH
<https://abuse.hetzner.com/>

Re: Impersonation of the Federal Trade Commission by a Domain Hosted by Hetzner Online GmbH

Dear Hetzner Online GmbH:

I write to inform you that <https://www.eftc.online> (“eftc.online”), a website hosted by Hetzner Online GmbH, appears to impersonate the Federal Trade Commission’s (“FTC”) name, logo, website design, and written content without authorization.

As shown in the attached screenshots, eftc.online mirrors the official Federal Trade Commission’s website, ftc.gov. The upper lefthand corner of the eftc.online website prominently displays the name “Federal Trade Commission,” and includes a banner reading “An official website of Federal Trade Commission.” The landing page for both eftc.online and ftc.gov feature a prominent heading on the right-hand side that reads “How to Spot and Avoid Imposter Scams,” under which is a summary and link to “Learn More,” and on the left-hand side a blue text box with text detailing how to “Recognize an FTC Imposter.” Throughout, eftc.online mimics the official FTC website’s colors, text, and design, and prominently displays the name Federal Trade Commission and other monikers of an official government website.

As with the official FTC website, eftc.online includes a directive that consumers “Report Fraud.” Consumers who click on this link, believing they are reporting fraud to the FTC, are directed to an imposter webform, like the official reportfraud.gov, that walks consumers through a series of steps that includes details of the consumer’s complaint, monetary harm, and the consumer’s own and personal information such as their email address and phone number. The kind of information this copycat webform collects would allow malicious actors to re-scam unwitting consumers—for example, scammers can use the information the consumer provides about their complaint to legitimize the scammer’s subsequent false claims, including that they’re an FTC agent that can help recover money lost to the original fraud.

The FTC is not affiliated with the entities or individuals operating eftc.online. Please be advised that it is a violation of the Rule on Impersonation of Government and Businesses

(“Impersonator Rule”), 16 C.F.R. § 461, to “materially and falsely pose as, directly or by implication, a government entity or officer.”

We hope to hear from you promptly regarding this important consumer protection matter. In that communication, we would appreciate it if you would please provide data or other information identifying any other webpages associated with eftc.online. Please respond directly, and direct any questions, to Sara Tonnesen, stonnesen@ftc.gov or 202-326-2879.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lois C. Greisman

Lois C. Greisman

Attachments



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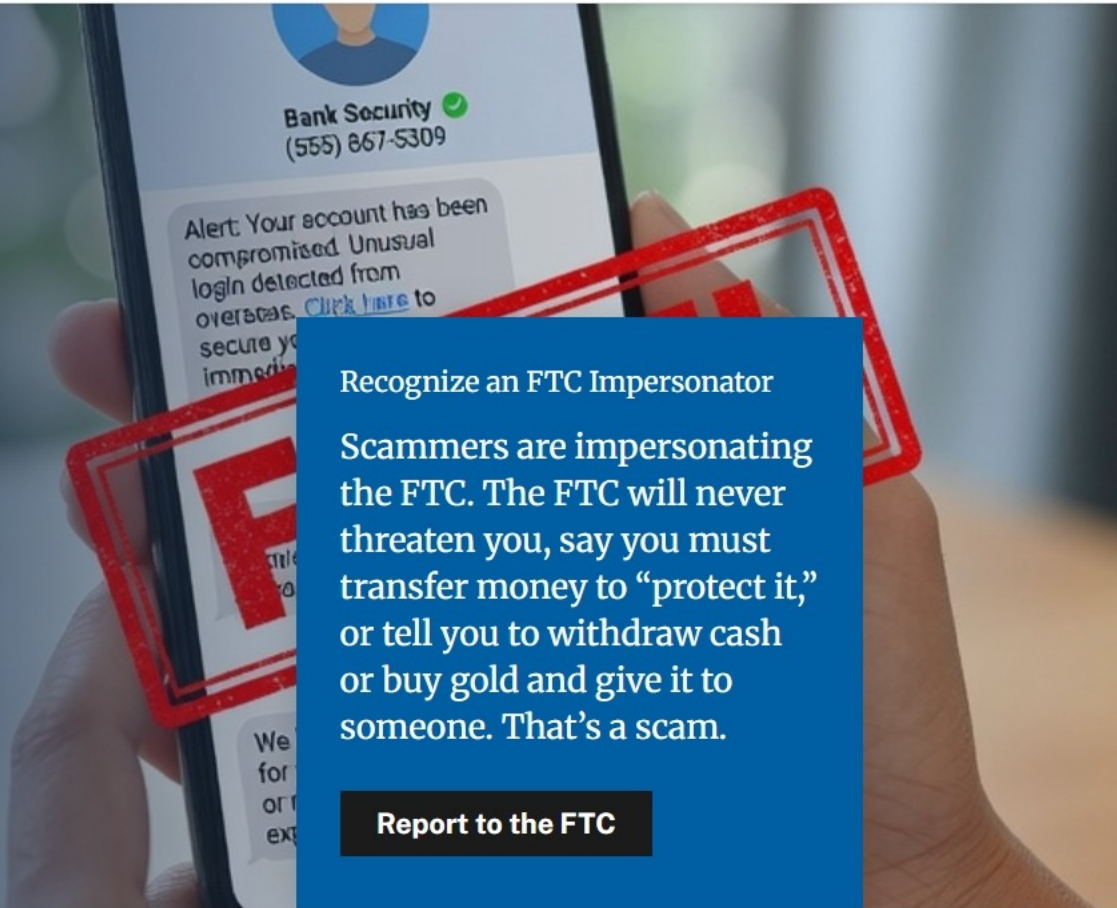
[About FTC](#)



How to Spot and Avoid Imposter Scams

Americans lost \$3.5 billion to various kinds of imposter scams last year including FTC imposters. Learn how you can spot and avoid them, and what to do if you think you were scammed.

[Learn More](#)



Recognize an FTC Impersonator

Scammers are impersonating the FTC. The FTC will never threaten you, say you must transfer money to “protect it,” or tell you to withdraw cash or buy gold and give it to someone. That’s a scam.

[Report to the FTC](#)



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[Report fraud](#)

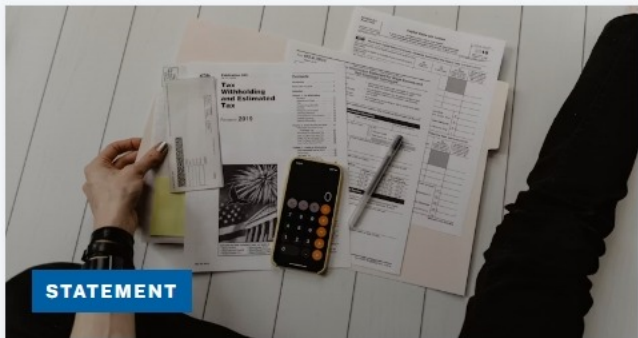
[Get your free credit report](#)

[Merger/Antitrust Comment](#)

[Report Take It Down violations](#)

[Report identity theft](#)

[Register for Do Not Call](#)



STATEMENT

[Fair Credit Reporting Act](#)

Do you use credit reports to make eligibility decisions about consumers? Learn about the Fair Credit Reporting Act



ALERT

[Dealing with Weather Emergencies](#)

Learn how to prepare for extreme weather, recognize disaster-related scams, find



PROCESS

[Our Refund Process](#)

Wondering how we get settlement money to consumers? Learn the six steps involved in every refund program.

[Fair Credit Reporting Act](#)

Do you use credit reports to make eligibility decisions about consumers? Learn about the Fair Credit Reporting Act

[Dealing with Weather Emergencies](#)

Learn how to prepare for extreme weather, recognize disaster-related scams, find

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How Reporting Works

Tell us what happened, get next steps, and help stop fraud.

1

Tell Us What Happened

Answer questions about your experience. It only takes about 10 minutes to complete.

2

Get Personalized Next Steps

Receive step-by-step advice on what to do next based on your specific situation.

3

Help Stop Fraud

Your report is shared to help identify and stop fraud patterns and protect others.

Report Fraud By Category

Choose a category to start your report.

Source URL: <https://www.ftc.online/>

Collection Timestamp: Wed Aug 19 2026 09:05:43 GMT-0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)

Report Fraud By Category

Choose a category to start your report.



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Government or Business Impersonator

Someone pretending to be from the government or a legitimate business

Online Shopping or Negative Reviews

Issues with online purchases or fake review scams

Investment or Business Opportunity

Fraudulent investment schemes or fake business opportunities



Telephone or Mobile Service

Phone scams, unwanted calls, or mobile service fraud



Identity Theft

Someone using your personal information without permission



Something Else

Other fraud, scams, or unfair business practices

Sign up to get e-mail updates.

Stay connected



News and Updates

Press Release

Consumer Alert

Open Meetings

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Press Release



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Open Meetings

Acquisition of Skywater

July 31, 2026

All press releases

BCP Staff | August 3, 2026

Consumer Alert

Talk to your friends and family to fight fraud

BCP Staff | July 30, 2026

agendas, transcripts, videos, reports, and public comments.

Open Meetings archive

Featured Video

How to spot and avoid imposter scams at'

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I report fraud to the FTC? -

Use [Report Fraud](#) to file a report. It takes about 10 minutes. You'll receive a Case ID to track your submission.

What should I do if someone claims to be from the FTC? +

track your submission.

What should I do if someone claims to be from the FTC?



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Where can I get my free credit report?



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Competition and Consumer Protection Guidance Documents	International		
Warning Letters	Office of Technology Blog		
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FTC Refund Programs			
Notices of Penalty Offenses			



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Report Fraud

Report fraud, scams, and bad business practices to FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION. It takes about 10 minutes. You will get a report number and next steps when you finish.

Step 1 of 7

PROBLEM

DETAILS

STORY

MONEY

WHO

YOU

REVIEW

Is your report about any of these common problems?

Choose the option that best matches. You can explain more on the next screens.

An impersonator

Someone pretended to be a person or company you know or trust

Online shopping or negative reviews

Problems with purchases, refunds, sellers, or fake reviews



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account fraud

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An impersonator

Someone pretended to be a person or company you know or trust

Online shopping or negative reviews

Problems with purchases, refunds, sellers, or fake reviews

“guaranteed” returns

account fraud

Identity theft

Someone used your personal information without permission

Prizes, sweepstakes, or lotteries

Fake prizes, fees to claim winnings, or lottery scams

Debt collection

Fake or abusive debt collectors

A job or work opportunity

Fake jobs, advance-fee employment scams

Something else

Other fraud, scams, or unfair business practices

Continue





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Report Fraud

Report fraud, scams, and bad business practices to FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION. It takes about 10 minutes. You will get a report number and next steps when you finish.

Report to help fight fraud

Protect your community by reporting fraud, scams, and bad business practices — even if you did not lose money.

- Answer a few questions about what happened
- Get a report number to track your case
- See personalized next steps after you submit

Tip: Report even if you did not lose money. Your report helps stop scams and protect others.



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Already have a report number? [Track your case](#)

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Tip: Report even if you did not lose money. Your report helps stop scams and protect others.



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