



Press release

The police are launching #watchout, a nationwide campaign on the topic of card security when shopping online.

Paying on the internet with a debit or credit card is popular. But this also attracts the attention of fraudsters. It is therefore all the more important that cardholders observe the most important precautionary measures. The police are therefore drawing attention to the most common dangers when shopping online with the current #watchout campaign as part of card security.

Zurich, 25 October 2021 - Fraudsters are always developing new scams to steal money from their victims. "Internet fraudsters are usually very creative. They exploit the good faith or carelessness of their victims. Yet many mistakes can be avoided, especially when shopping online, if you stick to a few precautionary measures," explains Captain Rolf Nägeli, Head of Prevention at Zurich City Police.

Credit and debit cards are popular means of payment

Online shopping mostly uses credit cards and since 2020 also debit cards. These secure means of payment have proven their worth and enjoy great popularity. Their advantage is that they require strong customer identification. In addition, the financial institutions themselves have extensive programmes with sophisticated warning systems. As soon as a payment appears suspicious, the cardholders are contacted. Under certain circumstances, a payment may even be declined. In this way, many cases of fraud can be prevented.

Negligence is the most frequent cause of card fraud

Most offences in online shopping today happen due to carelessness on the part of cardholders. This is exactly where the police want to start by raising awareness. "We are always amazed at how carelessly or frivolously many victims handle their card data on the internet. Some simply press "Next" without reading the text. Others give their confirmation code to strangers without a second thought. Sometimes money has already been withdrawn from their account for months, but the cardholders do not notice because they do not check their statements. Photos of cards on social media are not uncommon either," says Rolf Nägeli.

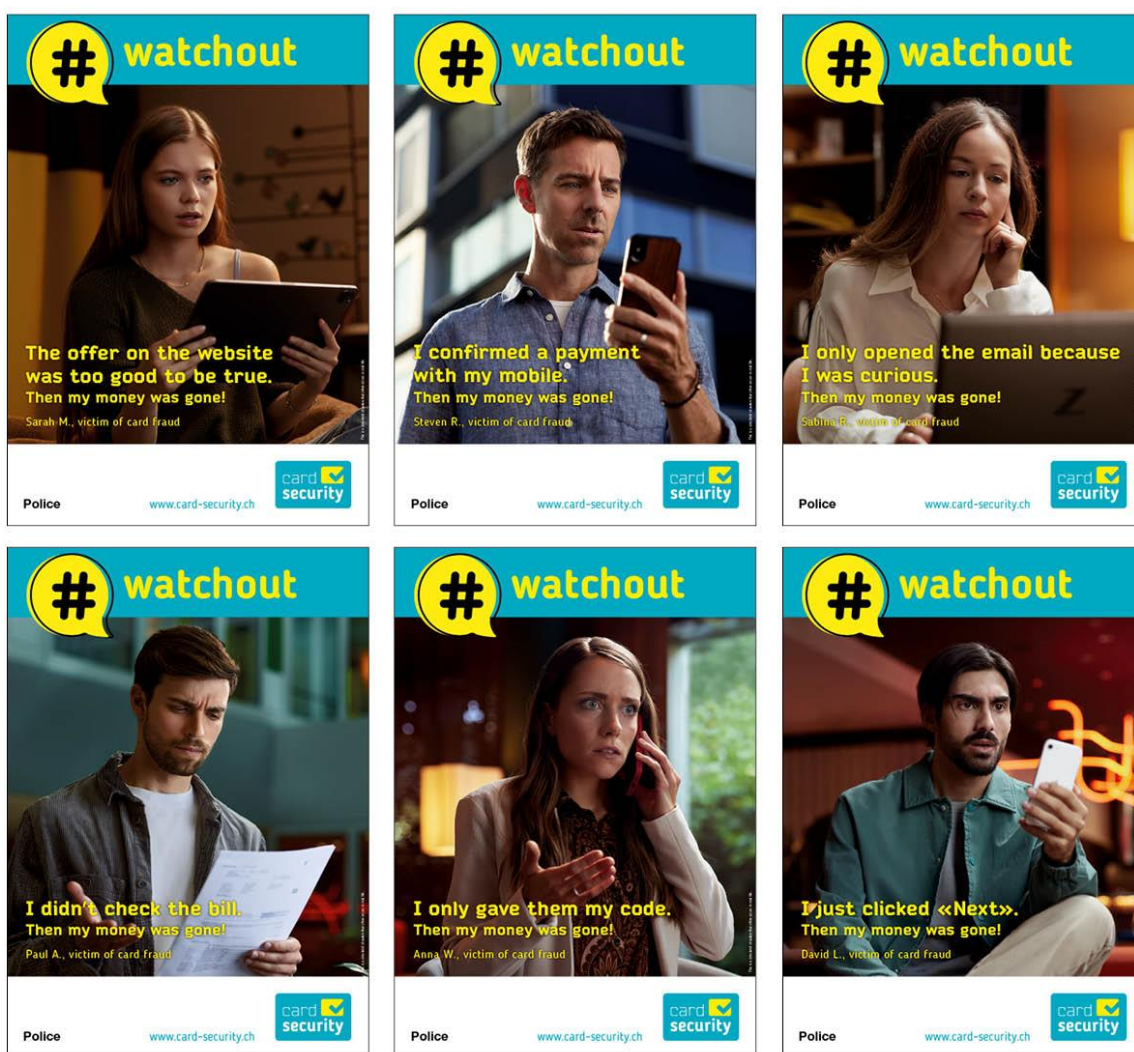
Card fraud in online shopping affects the entire population - in all age groups, from teenagers to senior citizens. "We have to make people more aware of the dangers!", explains Nägeli. "Many people don't realise that the same precautions have to be taken online as when buying goods in a store."

Campaign

The #watchout campaign is being launched by the police as part of Card Security. It will run from end-October 2021 - mainly on the internet with various online measures. In parallel, the police will also be informing people directly with flyers and posters. Information on the campaign as well as helpful prevention measures can be found at:

www.card-security.ch/ufpasse

The campaign focuses on six typical scams that card fraudsters use to harm their victims.



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