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Subject: - credit card scam
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Community Partners; after receiving this e-mail, I checked with our Fraud Professionals and they did confirm this is a pretty common scam. Please be aware and take appropriate measure to prevent yourself from becoming a victim.

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New Credit Card Scam

This one is pretty slick since they provide YOU with all the information, except the one piece they want.

Note, the callers do not ask for your card number; they already have it... This information is worth reading. By understanding how the VISA & Master Card Telephone Credit Card Scam works, you'll be better prepared to protect yourself.

One of our employees was called on Wednesday from 'VISA', and I was called on Thursday from 'Master Card'.. The scam works like this: Caller: 'This is (name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My Badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your

*VI SA card which was issued by (name of bank).
Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device
for \$497..99 from a Marketing company based
in ?'*

*When you say 'No', the caller continues with,
'Then we will be issuing a credit to your account.
This is a company we have been watching and
the charges range from \$297 to \$497, just
under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags
most cards. Before your next statement, the
credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is
that correct?'*

*You say 'yes'. The caller continues - 'I will be
starting a Fraud investigation. If you have any
questions, you should call the 1- 800 number
listed on the back of your card (1-800 -VI SA)
and ask for Security.'*

*You will need to refer to this Control Number.
The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. 'Do
you need me to read it again?'*

*Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam
works. The caller then says, 'I need to verify
you are in possession of your card'. He'll ask you
to 'turn your card over and look for some
numbers'. There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are
part of your card number, the next 3 are the
security Numbers that verify you are the
possessor of the card. These are the numbers
you sometimes use to make Internet purchases
to prove you have the card. The caller will ask*

you to read the 3 numbers to him. After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, 'That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?' After you say No, the caller then thanks you and states, 'Don't hesitate to call back if you do, and hangs up.

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the Card number.. But after we were called on Wednesday, we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question.. Are we glad we did! The REAL VI SA Security Department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 was charged to our card.

*Long story - short - we made a real fraud report and closed the VI SA account. VI SA is reissuing us a new number. **What the scammers want is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card** Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call VI SA or Master card directly for verification of their conversation. The real VI SA told us that they will never ask for anything on the card as they already know the information since they issued the card! If you give the scammers your 3 Digit PIN Number, you think you're receiving a credit. However, by the time you get your statement you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost too late and/or more difficult to actually file a fraud report.*

What makes this more remarkable is that on Thursday, I got a call from a 'Jason Richardson of Master Card' with a word-for-word repeat of the VI SA scam. This time I didn't let him finish. I hung up! We filed a police report, as instructed by VI SA. The police said they are taking several of these reports daily! They also urged us to tell everybody we know that this scam is happening.

*Please pass this
on to all your
family, friends
and neighbors. By
informing each
other, we protect
each other.*

*Neighbors
helping*

neighbors; always
the best policy!