

NEWS

How to Not Get Hacked by a QR Code

QR codes can be convenient—but they can also be exploited by malicious actors. Here’s how to protect yourself

For every form of communication or messaging out there, you can be sure that scammers and hackers are trying to find a way to take advantage of you—from emails to texts to calls. This threat extends to QR (quick response) codes too.

Earlier this year, we saw a QR code scam targeted at a major US energy company, for example, and security analysts are warning that these so-called quishing attacks are on the rise. Quishing is an amalgamation of “QR code” and “phishing”—where malicious actors “fish” (often over email) for private information and personal details. If we didn’t already have enough to worry about, now we need to be on guard against quishing. The good news is that the security practices you hopefully already have in place should serve you well here too.

How QR Code Hacks Work

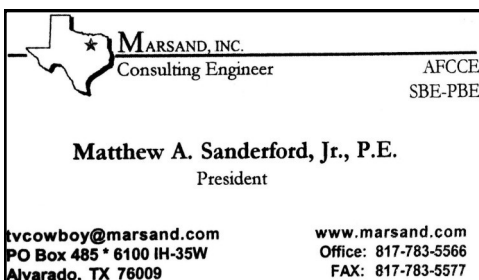
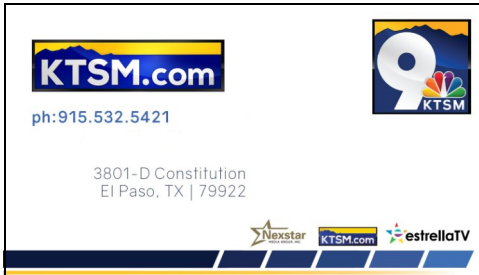
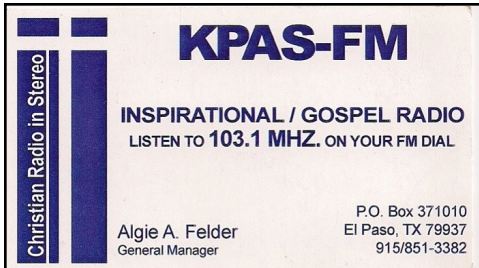
By now we should all be familiar with QR codes: a grid of black-and-white squares that act as a sort of hieroglyph that can be translated by the camera on your phone or another device. Most often, QR codes translate into website URLs, but they can also point to a plain text message, app listings, map addresses, and so on.

This is where the subterfuge can slip in—QR codes can point to fraudulent websites just as easily as genuine ones, and you don’t necessarily know which it’s going to be before you visit it. Scanning a QR code will typically bring up a URL that you can then follow, but it’s rarely clear at first glance just how safe that website address is.

And you don’t need anything special to create a QR code. The tools are widely available and straightforward to use, and putting together a QR code of your own isn’t much more difficult than scanning one. If you wanted to create a QR code that points to a website that’s been put together for malicious purposes, it would only take a couple of minutes. The QR code could then be stuck on a wall, attached to an email, or printed on a document, ready to be scanned.

The aims of these websites are the same as they’ve always been: to get you to download something that will compromise the security of your accounts or your devices, or to get you to enter some login credentials that will then be relayed straight to the hackers (most probably using a spoof site set up to look like something genuine and trustworthy). The intended end results are the same as ever, but the method of getting there is different.

- KTSM-TV
- KVIA-TV
- KRWG-TV
- KBNA-AM/FM & KAMA-AM
- KHEY-AM/FM, KPRR-FM & KTSM-AM/FM
- KLAQ-FM, KISS-FM & KROD-AM
- KPAS-FM-
ALGIE A. FELDER CSBE
- KINT98.COM
INTERNET RADIO NETWORK
- BURST COMMUNICATIONS
INC.- KIRK BASEFSKY
- JOHN LACKNESS
- ENTRAVISION
COMMUNICATIONS
- SCMS, INC.-
- ABS ADVANCED BROADCAST
SERVICES, LLC
- KSCE-TV
- RF Specialties of Texas
- KCOS-TV
- KELP-AM
ARNOLD McClatchy.
- MARSAND, INC.
- Ho Tah Say. LLC



Avoiding QR Code Hacks

The security precautions you should already be using are the same ones that will keep you protected against QR code hacking. Just as you would with emails or instant messages, don't trust QR codes if you're not sure where they've come from—perhaps attached to suspicious-looking emails or on websites that you can't verify. The QR code on the menu in your local restaurant, in contrast, is highly unlikely to have been generated by hackers.

Of course, there's always the chance that the accounts of your friends, family, and colleagues have been compromised, so you can never be 100 percent sure that a message with a QR code in it is genuine. Scams will usually try to imply a sense of urgency and alarm: Scan this QR code to verify your identity or prevent the deletion of your account or take advantage of a time-limited offer.

As always, your digital accounts should be as heavily protected as possible, so that if you do fall victim to a QR code trick, safety nets are in place. Switch on two-factor authentication for every account that offers it, make sure your personal details are up to date (such as backup email addresses and phone numbers that can be used to recover your accounts), and log out of devices you're no longer using (you should also delete old accounts you no longer have any need for).

Finally, keep your software up to date—something that's happily now very easy to do. The latest versions of popular mobile web browsers come with built-in tech for spotting fraudulent links: These integrated protections aren't infallible, but the more up-to-date your browser and mobile OS are, the better your chances of getting a warning on screen if you're about to visit an unsafe location on the web.

SBE CHAPTER 38 OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN

Antonio Castro
SBE member # 11456.
KFOX/COX retired Chief Eng.
800 Arredondo dr.
El Paso, TX 79912
915-584-1220 home
915-525-8507 cell
farahjac@sbcglobal.net

VICE CHAIRMAN

Bruno Cruz
SBE member # 25867
200 E. Alto Mesa
El Paso, TX. 79912
915-757-7898
915-526-1842 cell
Bruno.cruzJR@kfoxtv.com

TREASURER

Walter Hanthorn
SBE member # 18307
KSCE TV
4461 Gen. Maloney
El Paso, TX. 79924
915-269-7583 home
915-532-8588 office

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE:

David Halperin.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Antonio Castro
Warren Reeves

FREQUENCY COORDINATION COMMITTEE:

Warren Reeves
Owen Smith

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

Rick Vilardell

WEB SITE COMMITTEE:

Norbert Miles

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP:

Antonio Castro

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN:

Warren Reeves

NEWSLETTER:

Antonio Castro

EAS CHAIRMAN:

Michael Rivera

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Antonio Castro
Bruno Cruz
Walter Hanthorn



ABS
Advanced Broadcast Services LLC

Providing world class engineering and tower services to the broadcast and telecommunications industries.

David Grice
President

915-308-1227
4774 Villa Hermosa Dr
El Paso TX 79912
www.AdvancedBroadcastServices.com
Dgrice@AdvancedBroadcastServices.com



NM STATE

KRWG PUBLIC MEDIA

npr

SCMS inc.
YOU KNOW WE KNOW RADIO

for Broadcast Equipment Solutions

800 438 6040 Sales
704 889 4508

NEW USED RENTALS TRADE-INS

www.scmsinc.com

iHeart MEDIA

Walter Alvarez
Market President | El Paso
iHeartMedia

4045 N Mesa Street
El Paso, TX 79902

915.351.5473
915.201.7627

walteralvarez@iheartmedia.com



EL PASO, TX SBE CHAPTER 38 MEETING MINUTE

DATE 11/14/2023 **LOCATION:** COMO'S RESTAURANT

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 12:07 P.M. , BY ANTONIO CASTRO. WE WERE 13 (THIRDTTEEN) ATTENDANTS

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY: MINUTES ON NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER. ACCEPTED BY NORBERT MILES, SECONDED BY MICHAEL RIVERA.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: \$ 2,326.56 IN THE BANK. ACCEPTED BY MARIO JIMENEZ, SECONDED BY WALTER HANTHORN.

REPORT OF THE CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE: WAITING FOR FIVE STUDENTS OF RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL TO GET CTO.

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: GLENN LEFFLER WAITING FOR KELP NEWOWNER IN ORDER TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP. BRUNO CRUZ TO INVITE KFOX-KDBC AS SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP FOR 2024 AND ELIAS VENTANILLA TO INVITE "TELEMUNDO 48" AS WELL .

REPORT OF THE FREQUENCY COORDINATOR COMMITTEE: NO REPORT

REPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: NO FOUNDS THIS YEAR.

REPORT OF THE WEBSITE COMMITTEE: NOW 4722 VS. 4633 EQUAL 89 HITS.

REPORT OF THE EAS CHAIRMAN: TEXAS MONTHLY TESTS WAS FINE. NONE FROM NEW MEXICO. SAGE UNIT NOT IN COMPLIANCE FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY 2024. FIRMWARE PROBLEMS

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE: NO REPORT.

NEW BUSINESS OR ANY ITEMS FOR THE CHAPTER INTEREST :: NONE.

OTHER. NONE

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION: DECEMBER THE 12TH AT THE "ANGRY OWL" RESTAURANT AT MESA/ARGONAUT. AT NOON

MEETING ADJOURNED: AT 12:35 P.M.

It is Collecting times for past due memberships(just a few). Let's finish 2023 financially right . Square calls !!

DECEMBER PROGRAM

THE NOVEMBER MEETING WAS HELD AT THE "COMO'S" ITALIAN RESTAURANT. WE HAD AN ATTENDANCE OF 13 ENGINEERS, RADIO AND TV

OUR DECEMBER MEETING WILL BE AT THE "ANGRY OWL" RESTAURANT OVER MESA ST., AND ARGONAUT

THERE IS NO PRESENTATION, ONLY GOOD FRIENDSHIP !!

WHEN:

DECEMBER 12 TUESDAY.

WHERE:

THE "ANGRY OWL" RESTAURANT

TIME:

12:00 PM

COME AND WISH EVERYONE HAPPY HOLIDAYS

