

ACCOUNT LOCKDOWN EDITION

Your code is your key. Don't hand it over.

Most account takeovers don't take hacking skills. Someone just asks for the six-digit code that lands on your phone, and you send it. Here's how to keep your accounts yours.



Codes are for you only

No friend, teacher, game, app or 'support team' ever needs the code sent to your phone or email. If anyone asks for it, the answer is no, every single time.



One long passphrase per account

Use a different passphrase for school, email and games, like four random words. If one leaks, the others stay safe. A password manager or a trusted adult can help you keep track.



Surprise code? Lock it down

A sign-in code you didn't ask for means someone may have your password. Change it, sign out of other devices, and tell your school's tech help or a trusted adult.



Spot the scam



Unknown number (229) 555-0161

Text message

hey sorry to bug u. i accidentally put ur number on my account recovery. u just got a 6 digit code meant for me, can u text it back real quick? my mom is gonna take my phone if i don't fix this in the next 5 min. please, u would literally save my life rn. ty ty ty

Spot the scam: how many red flags can you find?

Red flags I found: ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Look for: surprise, urgency, secrecy, an unusual payment method, a sender or link you can't confirm.

FUN FACT

The U.S. cyber defense agency CISA calls phishing-resistant sign-ins the gold standard, and says FIDO/WebAuthn, the tech in security keys and built-in phone and laptop sign-ins, is the only widely available kind.

Source: CISA Fact Sheet: Implementing Phishing-Resistant MFA



Your 60-second move

Turn on two-step sign-in for your main email today. Your email is the key that resets every other account you have.



Who do I tell?

Name / ext. _____

Report channel _____

- Five flags: an 'accident' with your number, a code you didn't ask for, a request to send it back, a sob story and a 5-minute rush. Smart move: never send the code. Delete the text, change your password if the code was for your account, and tell a trusted adult.
- Nobody 'accidentally' adds a stranger's number to their account.
- The code was sent to you because someone is trying to get into YOUR account.
- Sending it back hands them the key.
- A sob story is there to make you feel bad for saying no.
- A 5-minute rush so you don't stop to think.

ANSWER



Scan for a 2-minute lesson on stopping account takeovers

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