



# FBI Warns of Mystery Packages with QR Codes as Trap

## Description

The FBI has issued a warning as homes across the United States receive unsolicited packages containing suspicious QR codes, which could lead to financial scams. This troubling trend highlights how scammers increasingly exploit modern technology for deceitful purposes.

In July, the FBI alerted the public to this new scam affecting individuals nationwide. Victims receive unexpected packages that can cause serious financial harm if not handled with caution.

The scam resembles earlier "brushing scams." In these instances, companies send products to random people and then post fake reviews under those names to boost their ratings. However, this new variant poses a greater risk. It features unsolicited parcels with printed QR codes either on the outer packaging or inside. These packages lack return addresses, leaving recipients unaware of their origin.

When victims scan the QR code, they are directed to fraudulent phishing websites that request personal information, such as credit card and bank details. These fake sites often mimic genuine ones, which can deceive individuals into providing sensitive information.

Cybersecurity firm NordVPN revealed that 73% of Americans scan QR codes without verifying them, with over 26 million admitting to being directed to malicious sites.

Although the scam has existed for a couple of years, the FBI is now urging people to remain vigilant, especially when receiving packages they did not order. They recommend reporting any scams to the FBI. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has also advised victims to change any compromised passwords and enable two-factor authentication. They urge individuals to monitor their credit reports for any signs of fraudulent activity.

## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. What warning did the FBI issue regarding unsolicited packages?

- Option: Packages may contain food items
- Option: Packages may contain suspicious QR codes
- Option: Packages may include gift items
- Option: Packages are always sent with a return address



---

2. What trend is being highlighted by the FBI's warning?

- Option: Increase in online shopping
- Option: Exploitation of technology for scams
- Option: Rise in home deliveries
- Option: Decrease in financial crimes

3. What do the unsolicited packages usually lack?

- Option: They lack QR codes
- Option: They lack return addresses
- Option: They lack delivery charges
- Option: They lack tracking information

4. What type of sites do the QR codes direct victims to?

- Option: Genuine shopping websites
- Option: Fraudulent phishing websites
- Option: Local business websites
- Option: Educational websites

5. What proportion of Americans scan QR codes without verifying them according to NordVPN?

- Option: 50%
- Option: 60%
- Option: 73%
- Option: 80%

6. Which organization recommends changing compromised passwords?

- Option: FBI
- Option: FTC
- Option: NordVPN
- Option: NSA

### True-False

7. The FBI's warning involves financial scams through unsolicited packages.

8. Victims of the scam are always aware of the sender of the packages.

9. The scam discussed has existed for over a decade.



10. Individuals are advised to monitor their credit reports for signs of fraud.
11. Brushing scams involve sending products to people and posting fake reviews.
12. The packages typically contain product samples.

### Gap-Fill

13. The FBI warned about unsolicited packages containing suspicious QR codes that could lead to financial \_\_\_\_\_
14. Victims receive unexpected packages that can cause serious financial \_\_\_\_\_ if not handled with caution.
15. These packages are often sent without a \_\_\_\_\_, leaving recipients unaware of their origin.
16. When victims scan the QR code, they are directed to \_\_\_\_\_ phishing websites.
17. 73% of Americans scan QR codes without \_\_\_\_\_ them first.
18. The FTC advises victims to enable two-factor \_\_\_\_\_ to enhance their security.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Packages may contain suspicious QR codes 2. Exploitation of technology for scams 3. They lack return addresses 4. Fraudulent phishing websites 5. 73% 6. FTC

**True-False:** 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. True 12. False

**Gap-Fill:** 13. scams 14. harm 15. return address 16. fraudulent 17. verifying 18. authentication

### CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL5

### Date Created

2026/03/09

### Author

aimeeyoung99