



How To protect yourself from Voice Over Scams

With special guest
Mike Copeland

Meet Mike Copeland

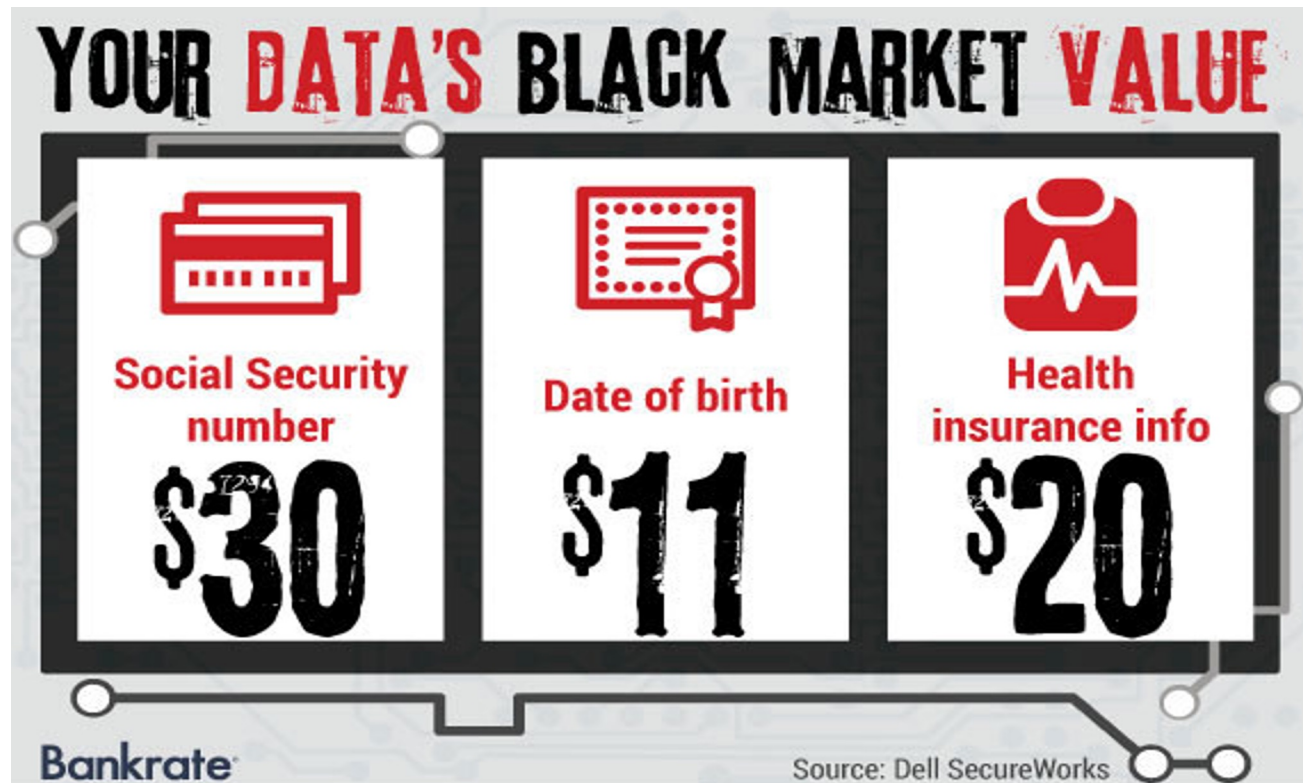
- Retired Deputy Investigator, Chatham County, NC sheriff's office
- Investigated hundreds of financial crimes cases
- Interviewed over 100 suspects (insight into the criminal mindset)
- Member of the Great Voice Community and former private client

Scammers Main Objective

Identity theft!

- They're really after personal info that they can sell
- New fresh information sells for as much as \$5,000
- Information ages quickly

Is protecting yourself worth it?



Personal ID Theft Fact & Figures

ID Theft has surpassed the International Drug Trade in terms of overall value---\$105 Billion!!

Consumer expenses surpass \$1 Billion

Victims pay an average of \$535 per incident.

Business expenses exceeded \$55 Billion



What is Stolen?

- Name & Address
- Date of Birth
- Drivers License
- SSN Card or Birth Certificate*
- Mother's Maiden Name
- Checks, Bank Statements, Credit Card Information
- Telephone Number(s)
- Bank Account Number
- Pay stubs
- Car Registration/Insurance Card
- Medical receipts, prescriptions, etc
- Birth & Death Certificates



The Makings Of A Scam

Trying to get something for nothing
Same playbook everywhere (including VO)

Phishing Examples

From: SunTrust Bank <onlinebanking@suntrust.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 2:06 PM
To:
Subject: Online Banking Alert



We have noticed irregular activity on your SunTrust check card.

In order to safeguard your account, your online profile has been locked. This has been done to secure your accounts and protect your private information. We are committed to making sure that your online transactions are secure.

To unlock your account, and verify your identity [please click here](#)

Sincerely,
SunTrust
Online Customer Service

If you have a question about your account, please sign on to your secure online banking session at suntrust.com, click the Sign On button and then select "Contact Us."

paco@radiumms.com

Secure job good payment

Hello!

I am Ervin, head of PR at one of the largest financial companies and we are interested in your work. The job is very adaptable and the salary can reach up to \ \$5000 per month.

Feel free to call us <<http://survey.bluejeans.co.za/nfox9sd/par/db.php>> if you are intrigued!

Best regards,
PR manager areal dept.



.ZA is a domain registered in South Africa!!!!

Characteristics Of A Scam

Urgency!

(Unusually short turnaround times, a voice over emergency from an unknown client)

A somewhat believable story.

Appeal to vanity (you're just what we're looking for)

A Recent Audiobook Scam

A Great Voice community member was contacted by a company saying they loved her voice and wanted to use her for an audio book. They approached her by email using the letterhead of a company she had heard of before.

- The rate was for a lot of money...\$5,200 all at once, which is significantly higher than normal.
- There was URGENCY..she had to get it done very quickly which stressed her out and she dropped everything she was doing to finish the book...they kept calling and pressuring her.
- **They sent her a check and told her they overpaid her and asked for her bank account** so she could reimburse them --
- Fortunately, she used to be a book keeper so she didn't give them her bank account# and stopped taking their calls so the only thing she was out was her time recording the book and her embarrassment at falling for the scam.
- The scam was confirmed when she called the company the scammers claimed to be from, and the legitimate company told her they didn't have a audio book project going.

VO Check Scams

- They ask you to purchase equipment you'll need for a special VO job (computer, mic and other gear) at a link they give you and say they will refund you via check
- They send checks which bounce (2-3 days)
- **TIP:** A bank teller can tell if a check is real. Ask them to verify.

Studio Scam- Reimbursement Scam

- You're hired to record at a local studio (they give an actual studio name)
- The client is from out of town and the studio needs the money right away. (urgency)
- They ask you to prepay the studio time and they'll reimburse you.
- Talent calls studio and there's no such gig.

Talent Agent Scam

- A person claiming to be from a well-known talent agency finds you on LinkedIn and tells you a client wants to use your voice for a job.
- The pay is good, about \$2,000.
- They send you an agreement on their letterhead.
- They ask you to pay a modest \$60 “agency fee” before the session.

They're trying to get your bank account # or personal information (phishing)

Unsolicited Agency Agreement

- ----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ed Batchelor** <Ed@arcieritalent.com>

Date: Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 12:09 PM

Subject: Complete with Docusign: Arcieri & Associates Talent Agency

Document- Please review

To:

SCAM example: Complete with

mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/mike+mcopeland%40pobox.com/KtbxLthKMCdskCFpBrhLzdwlhDvZRGZFWg

Abraham Members...Book Funnel Page...Cursos de Trilogia A...BY8 Cash Flow - Go...Dr. Norberto Keppe...FACULDADES TRILÓ...fb video landing 2 -...Googleyou tube it had to b...Great Voice Audiob...All Bookmarks

99+

Mail

4

Chat

Meet

Compose

Inbox3,564

Starred

Snoozed

Important

Sent

Drafts459

More

Labels

[Gmail]/Drafts/Bey...5

[Gmail]/Drafts/Dar...11

[Gmail]/Drafts 1

[Gmail]/Todd Brown12

[Gmail]/Trash/Agor...1

[Gmail]/Trash/R

401k1

Apple Macs1

Bomb Bomb

Chase PPP

Drafts/Disability Guys

FHL 20231

mike mcopeland@pobox.com

Active

Work

Forwarded message

From: Ed Batchelor <Ed@arcientalent.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 12:09 PM
Subject: Complete with Docusign: Arcieri & Associates Talent Agency Document- Please review
To:

DocuSign

Arcieri & Associates Talent Agency sent you a document to review and sign.

REVIEW DOCUMENTS

Ed Batchelor
Ed@arcientalent.com

Do Not Share This Email
This email contains a secure link to Docusign. Please do not share this email, link, or access code with

Gemini

See what Gemini can do

Summarize this email
in more detail

Delete messages
Preview before deleting

What can Gemini do
in Gmail

Gems

Sales pitch ideator
Create compelling sales pitches that resonate with your audience...

Outreach specialist
Craft personalized messages to potential customers, build...

Copy creator
Get help writing branded content that appeals to your audience.

Your Gems will appear across Workspace

Enter a prompt here

Gemini in Workspace can make mistakes, so double-check responses. [Learn more](#)

The Scammers Playbook

Appeal to vanity

Urgency

Appeal to greed (offer more money than usual but not enough to raise suspicion)

Test the 'mark'- how much you'll spend. If you're new you might jump at anything.

Give up some money right off the bat (pay our agency fee)

They have scripts for any of your objections

Tip Offs

They ask you to pay them. NEVER pay anyone for a voice over job.

Grammatical errors in the copy

They tell you to “Change whatever you want in the script”

Email return address is odd: offshore domains, not the name of the company, Gmail addresses

They don't seem to care about the quality of the recording.

Who are the scammers

- Sophisticated rings (scam managers)
- Offshore call centers that do all kinds of scams
- They'll often speak to you by phone- foreign accents

How To Stay Safe

- Trust your instincts
- Only use an EIN #, never your Social
- Never share personal info- social, bank details, passwords
- Verify before you act- contact the organization directly
- Complex passwords, change regularly

Ask Pointed Questions

- What are your noise floor requirements for this job?
- Which file format do you need
- “Would it be ok if I gave it to you in the *mu-law wham* format?”

Protect Yourself

- Always verify details.
- Check email header/source in original – look for discrepancies
- Misspellings, name of company

Embarrassment

- People are often too embarrassed to say anything so con goes on.
- Equipment buying check scam went on for weeks- talent lost thousands of dollars.
- They keep you on the phone so you wont call and check with anyone else

How To Report Fraud

- Notify your bank immediately if you shared your banking information
The bank can tell what account the money went to.
- Contact local police and file a report. Put the report number in your ic3 and FTC reports
- FTC <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/>
- FBI internet crime complaint center: <https://www.ic3.gov/>
- The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau:
<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/fraud/>
- .

Additional Resources

Identity Theft Resource Center
<http://www.idtheftcenter.org/>

Social Security Administration - (800) 269-0271

US Postal Inspection Service -
<https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov>

Federal Trade Commission -
<http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>

American Express - (800) 528-2122

MasterCard Global Service Center - (800) 307-7309

Visa Assistance Center - (800) VISA91

Don't Become a Victim

Protect Your ID & Assets

- **SHRED, SHRED, SHRED!!!!**
- **NEVER** leave (incoming or outgoing) mail in the mailbox!
- Review your credit report annually (www.annualcreditreport.com)
- **NEVER** carry your Social Security Card or any PIN numbers in your wallet or purse.
- Keep business records under lock & key
- Be cautious, "If it sounds too good to be true..."
- Be cautious of "government agency" telephone calls
- Limit computer access/Don't share passwords
- Encrypt all computer files
- Train employees to use "common sense"

