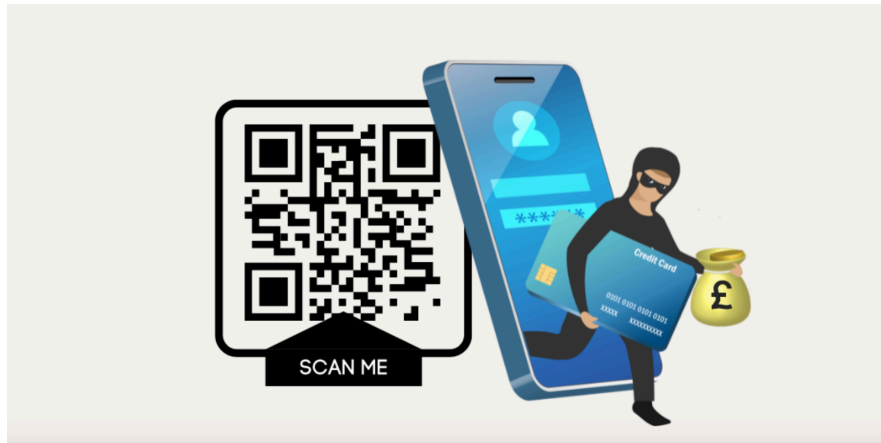




West Virginia State Privacy Office

Privacy Tips

April: The QR Code "Quishing" Trap



QR codes are convenient, but they are essentially "blind links." In a government building or public space, it is easy for a bad actor to place a malicious sticker over a legitimate QR code.

When scanned, these "Quishing" (QR Phishing) links can silently download malware to your device or redirect you to a fake login page that looks exactly like a government portal or a common utility site.

Your Action:

- Treat QR codes with the same suspicion as an email attachment from a stranger.
- Before scanning, physically check the sign or poster to see if it's a sticker that has been applied over the original.
- Never use a QR code to log into a secure account; instead, type the official website address directly into your browser.

**Note: Your agency/bureau/department/division may have specific requirements – always check your policies and procedures. If you have questions, contact your Privacy Officer.*