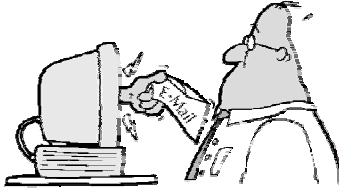


Don't Get Sucked In by Urban Legends, Scams, and Internet Fraud



Snopes.com at <http://snopes.com/>

Curious about the truth on the wild story your co-worker was telling? Want to look for the truth behind the latest scary Internet forward? Been nagged forever by a silly belief your grandmother swore by? Then comb this site to find the most accurate results that are gained by searches keyed to one or two words specific to the item being looked for, such as "aspartame" or "cookie recipe." Avoid keying your searches to the titles of pieces or the purported names of the senders because these details tend to shift from one telling to the next, meaning your hunt is likely to be less than successful.

Urban Legends and Folklore at <http://urbanlegends.about.com/>

This About.com site does not just debunk urban legends. It also confirms an occasional story. Includes links to corroborating Web sites from newspaper articles and authoritative organizations such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). There are sections on virus hoaxes and netlore.

Scambusters.org at <http://www.scambusters.org/>

An e-zine devoted to stopping spam and alerting the public to frauds and online hazards. Most issues take on a single topic such as viruses, online auctions, identity theft, urban legends, and credit card fraud. Published irregularly, the newsletter is archived back to its inception in 1995. Searchable.

FactCheck.org at <http://factcheck.org/>

Annenberg Political Fact Check is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, "consumer advocate" for voters that aims to reduce the level of deception and confusion in U.S. politics. This site monitors the factual accuracy of what is said by major U.S. political players in the form of TV ads, debates, speeches, interviews, and news releases.

STATS at <http://www.stats.org/>

Affiliated with George Mason University, STATS checks out the facts and figures behind the news. STATS monitors the media to expose the abuse of science and statistics before people are misled and public policy is distorted. Since 1994, STATS has sought to hold U.S. journalists to the highest standards of reporting accuracy, while providing them with concrete assistance to help them better understand the complexities and limitations of scientific and statistical material.