



Phraud Takes New Phorms

Technology brings us all kinds of convenience and entertainment. It also creates new ways for crooks to take advantage of consumers. The scams and the lingo change all the time. Here's an abbreviated technology fraud dictionary to keep you in the know:

Pharming: This secretly plants a virus or malicious program in your computer and hijacks your web browser. Pharming crimeware misdirects users to fraudulent sites or proxy servers. When you type in the address of a legitimate Web site, you're sent to a fake site without knowing it. If you give your password or account information on the fake site, thieves will use your account fraudulently.

Phishing: In this scam attempt, you receive an e-mail prompting you to reveal personal details—say, your Social Security number, passwords, or credit card information—by clicking on a link to a bogus Web page mimicking that of a legitimate company. These e-mails and linked sites used to have an amateurish look that was easy to spot; now, they often are indistinguishable from the real thing.

A clear tip-off that it's a fake—typically the greeting will be generic and not addressed to you by name. Another characteristic is a sense of urgency or alarm, say, that your account is about to be closed. Delete the message and report it to the credit union or other financial institution immediately.

Pretexting This isn't new, but another scam aided by technology. Sometimes referred to as "social engineering," it occurs when someone tries to get personal private information without authority to do so. The scammer may ask for private information while impersonating an accountholder by phone, mail, e-mail, or even by phishing—using a phony Web site or e-mail to collect data.

Spim: Spim is spam—unsolicited bulk e-mail—delivered by IM, instant messaging. Not yet as common as spam, it reaches more people all the time. IM can be especially useful for spammers and dangerous for recipients because they may be more likely to click on links, bypassing virus software available on computers. Block messages from anyone not on your buddy list as a defense.

Spoof: A spoof is an attempt to fool. Web spoofing is the act of secretly tricking your Web browser into talking to a different Web server than you intend. E-mail spoofing involves forging an e-mail header to make it appear as if it came from somewhere or someone other than the real source. Either can seduce you into supplying information to an unintended recipient.

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Items of Interest

United Community Credit Union's 64th Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday March 3rd (see Official Notice on back page). We are seeking interested Candidates to fill openings on the Credit Union Board of Directors and the Supervisory Committee. If you are interested, or would like to learn more about the duties and responsibilities of the positions, please contact Tim Golden at 802-479-2836 X104.

You may have noticed that our HFS on-line banking has new security measures designed to protect you. Now when you login and we can't properly identify you, you will be asked challenge question(s) to insure that an unauthorized individual is not attempting to access your accounts. A similar security measure has been up and running on our Bill Payer product for several months now.

We have discontinued staffing a regular loan officer on Saturday's. We tried staffing this on a trial basis beginning last February but we have not found the demand to be sufficient enough to continue providing this service.

If your account earned more than \$10 in dividends last year, or you paid more than \$600 in mortgage interest, you can expect to receive a 1099/1098 by January 31. You can also find this information on your year-end statement if you need it immediately.

**Check Out Our
Website:**

www.unitedccu.org

Are You A Winner?

If your account number appears below, let us know, and we'll credit your share account \$10.

#1074 #5513 #8306
#10775 #12631 #13969

Office Closings

January 15 Martin Luther King Day

February 19 President's Day



Members' Quarterly
is published each quarter by the
United Community Credit Union

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dorothy Gavin, President
Daniel Lambert, Vice-President
Mark McCarthy, Treasurer
Mario Lorenzini, Secretary
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Cynthia Bresett

Living Simply to Reap Savings

If you're eager to get off the earn-and-spend treadmill, you can make the shift to a lifestyle that embraces moderation and eschews excess. A successful transition, however, requires a change in both your spending habits and your relationship with money.

In their best-selling book, "Your Money or Your Life: Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Achieving Financial Independence," co-authors Joe Dominguez and Vicki Robin note that Americans "buy everything from hope to happiness."

But surveys find that spending as a means to achieve greater fulfillment doesn't seem to work. So why do we keep spending beyond our means? Habit may be partly to blame. A daily routine that includes latte, lunch and snack purchases could have you spending \$10 a day without prompting a second thought.

To avoid mindless spending, Dominguez and Robin encourage consumers to ask of each expenditure whether it brought "fulfillment, satisfaction, and value in proportion" to the time it took to earn the money to pay for it. The key is figuring out what is enough and what is just excess.

Another important shift in mindset that needs to be made before you can switch gears from spender to saver: Stop viewing spending as a reward and saving as deprivation.

Adopt these tips and techniques to start living beneath your means:

Make saving automatic. That's easy to do: Just ask us to set up a funds transfer from the account where your paycheck is deposited to a savings or investment account. You choose the amount. If you do this, and you don't use credit or tap savings, you'll automatically be living beneath your means.

Track your spending. The point of writing down everything you spend is not to make you obsessive about your money, it's to make you aware of your choices. Your routine—do you go out to dinner every Friday and Saturday night?—may be one of the biggest obstacles to reducing your spending.

Challenge every expense. Figure out how you might be able to reduce each of your essential expenses, from housing to transportation. Then determine which of your nonessential expenditures, such as entertainment and vacations, deliver the greatest bang for your buck and abandon those that are enjoyable but not essential to your happiness.

Avoid temptation. The easiest way to do that is to abandon shopping as a recreational activity. And try to limit your exposure to ad-heavy celebrity and style magazines and television programs that make affluence look commonplace.

OFFICE HOURS

	<u>Lobby</u>	<u>Drive-up</u>
Monday-Wednesday	8:30-5:00	8:00-5:00
Thursday	9:00-5:00	8:00-5:00
Friday	9:00-5:30	8:00-6:00
Saturday	9:00-12:00	9:00-12:00

UCCU RATEBOARD

(As of January 1, 2007)

DIVIDEND RATES

APY

Regular Shares	1.01%
Share Drafts (checking)	0.25%
Multi-Purpose Club	1.01%
Christmas Clubs	1.00%
IRAs	4.59%
Hi-Yield	
\$500-\$9,999	2.00%
\$10,000-\$24,999	2.50%
\$25,000-\$49,999	3.00%
\$50,000 and above	3.50%

Term Certificates

6 Months	4.00%
12 Months	5.00%
24 Months	4.75%
36 Months	4.70%
48 Months	4.65%
60 Months	4.60%

LOAN RATES

Secured: includes Cars, Trucks, Campers, RVs, Motorcycles, ATVs, Snowmobiles and Boats.

TERM*	RATE*
24 Months	5.00%
36 Months	5.50%
48 Months	6.00%
60 Months	6.50%
72 Months	7.00%

Add 1.25% for 2000 to 2003 model years

Add 2.50% for 1999 and older model years

Add 2.00% for non-titled RV vehicles

Add 2.00% for vehicles over 100,000 miles

Deduct 0.50% for payments by Direct Deposit; or Deduct 0.25% for payments by Auto-Pay

Signature:

60 Months	9.75%
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* Rates and terms are determined by an evaluation of your credit.

Other:

Home Equity Line-of-Credit	7.75%
(Over 80% LTV)	8.75%
Home Equity Fixed	
60 Months	6.25%
120 Months	7.00%
180 Months	7.75%
Share Secured	3.00%
Hi-Yield Secured	4.00%
VISA Credit Card	11.90%
Home Mortgages	call for current rates

All Rates are subject to change.

(For current rates, visit our website at www.unitedccu.org)

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If you hold your mouse over a link, the status line displays the corresponding URL. Be suspicious if the status line URL is different from what you think you should see. If Web pages you're familiar with suddenly prompt you to fill in private information, think carefully before you comply. If possible, call or send mail to the official source to verify that this change is legitimate. As always, when in doubt, do not enter any information you feel uncomfortable providing.

Vishing: Vishing uses Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones instead of a misdirected Web link to steal your personal information. Instead of an e-mail blast, the thieves use a "war dial" attack over a VoIP system to blanket an area. A recorded message tells you, for example, that your credit card has been breached and tells you to call a number immediately. The number connects to a VoIP phone that can recognize telephone keystrokes. When you dial, another message states "this is account verification; please enter your 16- digit account number."

The same rules apply—don't bite, and notify the "vished" entity right away. Even caller ID can be spoofed, so don't think you're secure if you believe the number looks legitimate. A similar telephone message can arrive by e-mail—again, don't bite

Official Notice of the 64th Annual Meeting of the United Community Credit Union

Saturday, March 3, 2007
at the Canadian Club
Route 14
Barre, Vermont

SCHEDULE

5:30 - 6:30	<i>Social Hour</i>
6:30 - 7:30	<i>Dinner: Prime Rib of Beef</i>
7:30 - 8:30	<i>Business Meeting (see below)</i>
8:30 - Close	<i>Entertainment: Music & Dancing</i>

BUSINESS MEETING includes Acceptance of Reports, Election of Officers,
Proposed By-Law Changes, and any other business.
Doorprizes will be presented after the Business Meeting

Tickets: \$10.00

Tickets must be purchased by February 28, 2007, through the Credit Union Office.
Stop by 560 S. Barre Road, or call 479-2836, and we can deduct the amount from your
share account for the reservation.

No refunds can be extended after February 24.
There are a limited number of tickets, so please reserve early!