

Bogus Gift Cards

The Better Business Bureau, Wal-Mart, Target and Best Buy are company names being used to promote bogus gift cards. Be cautious if you receive an email advising that one of these vendors is promoting a give-away of Visa gift cards (usually for \$1000). This email is probably a scam and fraudsters are trying to get your personal information.

How the Scam Works:

People nationwide are receiving emails informing them that one of the above vendors is giving away \$1,000 Visa gift cards. Emails come from a variety of email addresses and contain different links, but all use a variation of the message below:

Dear Jim,

On behalf of the (Better Business Bureau, Wal-mart, Target, Best Buy or possibly another vendor), you have been issued a \$1,000 Visa Gift Card free of charge.

Card type: Visa Gift

Card Issued to: Jim Jones

Issuing branch: San Antonio, Texas

Valid until: 08/2015

Please use the following website to claim your card and have it shipped to the address of your choosing: Go to: www.reward2012.com to claim your prize. Please note that claims must be made within 48 hours from this email being sent, or the above link will become invalid.

Sincerely, Melissa
Customer Service Employee Benefits Center, LLC

If you go to this web site (in the email), you will be asked to input information about your age, address, email and cell phone number. Given that the survey does not request your Social Security Number, banking information or ask you to download a malware file, it is not likely an attempt at ID theft. Rather, it's probably an unscrupulous way to collect consumer data, such as email addresses and phone numbers.

The best advice to give if this scenario should occur is to avoid taking this offer serious and just delete the email.