



## Test Your Fraud IQ

Online, have you ever:

1. Clicked on a pop-up ad?
  2. Played solitaire or other games?
  3. Opened an email from someone you didn't know?
  4. Read a newspaper?
  5. Signed up for a free trial offer?
  6. Kept in touch with family members on Facebook or Twitter?
  7. Sold some merchandise in an auction?
  8. Checked the weather report?
  9. Sent funds through an internet money transfer service?
  10. Watched a TV show?
  11. Posted your home address, phone number, vacation plans, names of children or grandkids on social media?
- If you checked only even-numbered activities, congratulations! You're among Internet users who are least likely to be duped by a fraudster who's after your money.
  - If you checked any of the odd-numbered choices, "you may be putting yourself in the scammer's sights," said Doug Shadel, AARP Washington State director and author of *Outsmarting the Scam Artists*.
  - Shadel directed an AARP Fraud Watch Network survey of nearly 12,000 Internet users to figure out the differences between online fraud victims and nonvictims. One surprising discovery: age doesn't matter.
  - What does? Nonvictims rarely engage in certain online behaviors (such as the odd-numbered examples above). Victims often have recently experienced a stress event, such as job loss, illness or relationship problems.
  - "Scammers target people who are emotionally vulnerable because it's easier to force them into a bad decision," Shadel said.

**Call Idaho Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP): 1-800-247-4422**



Go to [aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork) for more about the survey and fraud protection

*(Thanks to Ohio SMP and to AARP Bulletin, March 2014)*