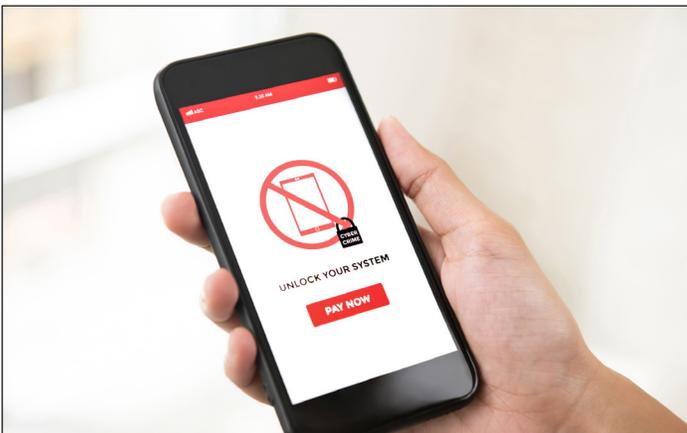


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## How to Keep Your Information Safe from Malicious Smartphone Apps



Lately, we've seen a rise in the amount of Malicious Mobile App, or MMA, attacks that continue to get more and more sophisticated. With the majority of people spending more time at home and doing most of their banking online, it is likely that cyber-attacks, such as MMA's, will continue to increase.

### About Malicious Mobile Apps

There are a variety of MMA's out there with various ways to steal your information and, ultimately, your hard earned money. One of the best ways to protect yourself is to know what to look out for. These are the four main types of MMA's:

#### Spyware

Spyware is used to "spy" on everything that is done on your device. Relevant activities such as texts, emails, calls, location, contacts, and browsing history are tracked.

#### Trojans

Trojans generate calls, texts, and purchases that are then billed to your device.

#### Phishing

Phishing websites look like a trusted website, such as your online banking platform, but are actually

clones used to steal your login credentials and other information.

#### Hidden Processes

Hidden processes run in the background on your device, invisible to you. They lie in wait for something relevant to happen, like for you to login to your online banking app, and then they strike, stealing your information.

#### How to Protect Your Banking Apps

As always when it comes to scams, you are your own first line of defense. Take the following precautions to protect yourself from being the victim of an MMA scam:

- Always install software updates on your devices and the applications on your devices
- Never install an app using a link from a text message
- Don't disable the built-in security on your device that prevents the installation of apps from unknown sources
- Don't root or "jailbreak" your devices – this allows downloading of unknown apps, or "sideloading"
- Be careful when downloading apps from the app store. Try to only download apps with trusted developers and make sure you review what "permissions" an app is asking for when you download it.

If you download all of your apps from the Google Play store for Androids, and the App Store for Apple devices, the chances that you will download a MMA is less than 1%. Stick with your device's app store as your only method of finding new apps. Follow the same rules that apply to avoiding other online scams, such as:

- Do not click on links in emails you were not expecting
- Do not download attachments (or apps) from emails you were not expecting
- Do not click on links in text messages or social media messages if you were not expecting them
- Verify the sender of an email, text, or social media message before taking any kind of action

**HELPFUL TIP** As always, stop, look, and think before taking actions on any electronic device to keep yourself and your information safe. If you think you may be a victim of a malicious mobile app, please call our Contact Center at 888-777-9982, and we will help you secure your Patriot accounts and determine the best next steps.

## Using Loans to Improve Your Financial Situation

Although you may think of taking out a loan as a detrimental option, loans can often help improve your financial situation and actually help you become debt free sooner.

### Lower Your Mortgage Payment

If the interest rate on your current mortgage is 1%-2% higher than what you could refinance for, it is likely worth refinancing. You can refinance with the same loan term and lower your monthly payment, or refinance to a lower term and pay off your mortgage earlier and decrease the amount of interest paid over the life of the loan.

### Consolidate Debt

- Once you have built up some equity in your home, you can take out a home equity loan or line of credit and use it to consolidate other high interest rate debt into one, low monthly payment.
- You can do a “cash-out” mortgage refinance to refinance your current mortgage plus get additional

funds through a lien on your home. You can use these additional funds to consolidate high-interest rate debt while also getting a lower interest rate on your mortgage.

### Add Value to Your Home

Since large repairs that add value to the home can be quite costly, they usually require a loan. Use a home equity loan to replace your roof, replace siding, build a home addition, or remodel parts of your home. Such strategic improvements could add significant value to your home.

### Fund Large Expenses

When you compare the interest rate on a home equity loan to the interest rate on an auto loan or personal loan, you could save hundreds, or even thousands, of dollars on interest throughout the life of the loan. You can use a home equity loan to fund a car purchase, a wedding, college tuition, and more.

## Shred Day: Get Rid of Clutter and Help Protect Your Identity!



Join us at our Wayne Avenue branch on **September 5th** for our “Shred Day.” This is a great opportunity to securely dispose of personal documents such as old bills, credit union statements, and other documents containing personal information to reduce clutter and help protect your identity.

Please limit the amount of paper you bring for shredding to four boxes. No plastic, binder clips, cardboard, or 3-ring binders.

**When:** Saturday, **September 5th 8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Where:** Wayne Avenue Branch, Chambersburg – Parking lot located behind drive-up lanes

**Please note:** To ensure adequate social distancing in light of the COVID pandemic, we will have mandatory “drive-thru” service, whereby members will remain seated inside their vehicle and open the trunk/hatch for a Patriot team member, wearing protective mask and gloves, who will collect and shred the papers.

**Food Drive Update:** We will not be collecting food at this event this year. In lieu of food drive please drop off your donation to a local food pantry. Thank you for your understanding.

Using the equity you have built in your home is a great way to consolidate your high-interest debt into one low, fixed monthly payment. The possibilities do not end there – complete that long awaited home improvement, pay for a child’s tuition, finance unexpected medical and household expenses, and much more!

### Pay Less and Save More!

Our home equity loans offer one lump sum payout. With fixed rates as low as 2.99% APR<sup>1</sup> (for a 10-year term with fixed monthly payments), there is no better way to save on your borrowing costs. Plus, you’ll also enjoy:

- No closing costs<sup>2</sup>
- No prepayment penalties

### To learn more and apply:

- Call Us: Direct **(717-709-2580)** or toll free **(888-777-9982)**
- Go online: [patriotfcu.org](http://patriotfcu.org)

<sup>1</sup>Annual Percentage Rate as of June 2, 2020 for a fixed rate Home Equity Loan at a 70% Loan-To-Value (LTV) Ratio for 120-month term. For example, the monthly payment would be \$96.53 per \$10,000 borrowed and does not include taxes and insurance premiums. Your actual payment may vary based on the loan amount, term, APR, credit worthiness, tax and insurance, and other factors. Other rates and terms are available. Rates and loan approval subject to individual credit worthiness and Debt-To-Income (DTI) Ratio and LTV guidelines. The minimum loan amount is \$7,500. Property must be the borrower’s primary residence. Property insurance is required. Borrower is responsible for Maryland recordation tax — amounts may vary by county and amount borrowed. Rates subject to change without notice. Must meet member eligibility requirements. Other restrictions apply.

<sup>2</sup> Patriot will pay for closing costs. If loan is paid off within 3 years, borrower is responsible for reimbursing Patriot for costs incurred.