



### How much have Kiwis lost to scammers?

— CERT NZ

Scammers stole \$4.2 million in the three months to June 2023, with SMS text-based phishing (smishing) on the rise, according to CERT NZ.

The Computer Emergency Response Team NZ's (CERT NZ) Cyber Security Insights for the June quarter said they responded to 1,950 incidents and there was a \$4.2 million in direct financial loss between April and June 2023, with 21% of the cyber incidents reporting a financial loss.

Incident categories comprised of ransomware, website compromise, and malware. Phishing, in particular, was up 26% from the previous quarter, and, according to CERT NZ's Director, Rob Pope, "It doesn't seem to be slowing down."

"Phishing – both email and SMS – has become one of the main paths for cybercrime, because, for the bad guys, it's the fastest and most cost-effective way of targeting New Zealanders," Pope said.

The data showed a worrying development, though, he noted, and that is the surge in smishing.

"Historically, most phishing was delivered by email," Pope said. "However, CERT NZ has seen many more phishing text messages (also known as 'smishing') than phishing emails."

Smishing poses more risk because people have their phone on them all the time and they see these messages when they are on "auto pilot."

"Links sent via text messages are also easy to disguise using URL shorteners (for example, bit.ly) and can be sent from 'spoofed' phone numbers," Pope said.

The smishing messages often purport to be from a reputable organisation such as banks, Inland Revenue and NZ Post. They usually claim there is a problem that requires the victim to click on a link to resolve it. Often, a sense of urgency is included around the action.

"Recently, some smishing texts have come with a phone number as well as, or instead of, a link," Pope said. "Calling the number gives the scammers direct access to you and can make their scam seem more legitimate."

One way to ensure everyone's secure and cyber resilient in New Zealand's ongoing fight against cyber criminals is to make sure all devices and software are up to date, the CERT NZ director said.

"If there's a vulnerability in a piece of software you use, you'd want to know," Pope said. "Vulnerability disclosure is a vital part of cyber security; knowing there's an issue gives the software vendors a chance to fix before malicious actors can get in." — NZ Adviser, Sep 2023

**"Life's journey is not to arrive at the grave safely in a well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, totally worn out, shouting, 'holy cow what a ride!'"**

— Zig Ziglar

### FMA warns of fake product disclosure statement scams

The Financial Markets Authority (FMA) is urging New Zealanders to remain vigilant and protect themselves from investment scams due to escalating scam reports to the FMA.

The FMA recently published 12 warnings in 2023 and 5 warnings in 2022 about scammers who have been impersonating legitimate New Zealand financial companies or pretending to be from financial institutions such as local New Zealand banks that send false product disclosure statements (PDS) for term deposits and bonds. The quality of these documents is becoming increasingly sophisticated and offer interest rates that look realistic but are marginally higher than legitimate offers and have induced people to hand over their money. Most of these involved impersonating international or overseas companies.

The FMA believes people are being led to this scam by fraudulent investment comparison websites; an activity featured in previous FMA warnings. People searching online for information on available interest rates provide their personal information, such as their name, phone number and email address. Criminals use that information to contact the person by phone, claiming to work for a New Zealand bank or overseas financial institution, and then email the person with links to impostor websites that feature the false PDSs.

The proliferation of recovery scams was another trend the FMA saw in 2023, with 36 reported in total. This type of scam involves criminals contacting scam victims claiming they could recover their lost funds. However, these scams were a ploy to access people's bank accounts to steal more of their money. — FMA, Dec 2023

**I'm a great believer in common sense, and the older I get I see that common sense is not that common.**

— Iris Apfel

**There are a lot of scams on the internet...**

— For a low price of \$69 I can show you how to avoid them.

**They like me, can you believe it?**

— Donald Trump

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## Eligibility for free shingles vaccine

The shingles vaccination is free for 12 months after your 65th birthday. You need 2 doses, 2 to 6 months apart. Your second dose will be free, even if you've turned 66. If you're eligible for a free vaccination, you may get it from your nurse, doctor, healthcare provider, and some pharmacies.

### What is Shingles

Anyone who has had chickenpox is at risk of developing shingles later in life. 1 in 3 people will get shingles during their lifetime.

Shingles is a painful rash that develops on one side of the face, body or head. Before the rash develops, people often have pain, itching, or tingling in the area where the rash will develop.

The most serious complications are nerve pain that can last for months or years, and eye problems that can result in loss of vision.

The best protection against shingles is vaccination.

— Seniors Newsletter Dec 2023

## Chris' Europe story...

Last year in June/July 2023, we were lucky enough to be on a cycling tour around The Netherlands and Belgium.

As we passed various gardens and fields in Belgium, we were aware of the beautiful poppies that were growing wild. We decided that it would be really special to take some time out to remember our brave Kiwi soldiers who fought, may have been wounded or died during the First World War.

We formed a circle, each held a poppy and if we wished, said a few words. I was asked to recite the wonderful poem 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae. I took the opportunity to remember my Great Uncle Cecil Williamson who was gassed in Belgium and my grandfather Archie Williamson who was wounded there. I am proud to wear Cecil's wedding ring. He returned to NZ after the war, but never was quite the same I'm told.

## In Flanders Fields

— by John McCrae



In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Love and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.



### At a recent conference, an Aussie presenter put these TikTok 'words' up on screen:

- Pookie:** A term of endearment.... *a cute nickname for someone they see as very lovely*  
**Simp:** A romantic tryhard.... *someone who is overly attentive to the object of their affection*  
**Rizz:** Another word for Charisma.... *someone with style, able to be charming & attractive*  
**NPC:** Non-player character.... *a person who doesn't participate or behaves predictably*  
**Cheugy:** The opposite of trendy.... *mocking someone for being 'uncool'*

## Top 10 declined baby names in NZ in 2023

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Prince - proposed five times  | 6. Royal - proposed three times  |
| 2. Bishop - proposed three times | 7. Messiah - proposed two times  |
| 3. III - proposed three times    | 8. Princess - proposed two times |
| 4. King - proposed three times   | 9. Prynce - proposed two times   |
| 5. Major - proposed three times  | 10. Rogue - proposed two times   |

— NZ Herald Jan 2024

"All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."

— George Orwell's 'Animal Farm'

## The MFAS Team of Financial Advisers

### Chris MacKay



Managing Director  
and  
Financial Adviser  
JP, BCA, CFP<sup>CM</sup>, CLU,  
Fellow Financial  
Advice NZ

- KiwiSaver
- Insurance
- Retirement Planning
- Wealth Management

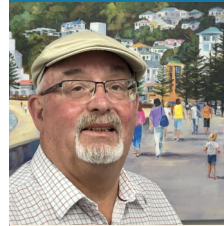
### Blair Bennett



Mortgage Broker  
and  
Financial Adviser  
MBS, Dip Bus & Admin,  
Dip Banking, F Fin.  
(Contractor to CMFP)

- Mortgages
- KiwiSaver
- Insurance
- Retirement Planning
- Wealth Management

### Chris Cornford



Financial Adviser  
(Contractor to CMFP)

- KiwiSaver
- Wealth Management
- Insurance

### George MacKay



Financial Adviser

- KiwiSaver
- Insurance

## booster

### Income Securities Portfolio Current Rates

(% p.a. after fees)

- |        |               |
|--------|---------------|
| 6.30 % | for 12 months |
| 6.20 % | for 9 months  |
| 6.10 % | for 6 months  |
| 5.60 % | for 3 months  |
| 5.30 % | Call          |

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