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Facebook scam: TWO FREE Southwest Airline Tickets

By Emil Protalinski | October 3, 2011, 11:39am PDT

Summary: A new Facebook scam exploits your desire of a getaway. Many can't resist the temptation of possibly getting two free tickets from Southwest Airlines.



Facebook scammers are once again exploiting ignorant victims with claims of freebies. Anyone who likes to travel is a potential victim – plane tickets are considered a luxury, and almost everyone wants to sometimes just get away.

This version says something along the lines of “TWO FREE Southwest Airline Tickets” followed by a link to a fraudulent website. It also has the following description, according to Sophos: “SW is currently giving away 2 tickets to any destination within the United States, only to a few select people.”

Similar to previous Facebook scams, you need to share the link with your Facebook friends before proceeding. The webpage you are taken to tells you this is necessary to be eligible for the competition.

After sharing, you are then immediately told you have won an iPad 2 Color, a free cruise, or a free trip to somewhere in the Mediterranean. The scammers' goal is to drive more traffic towards certain sites. This is how the scammer earns his or her money: a commission for every survey completed, every product purchased, and/or every account compromised. They also use them to spread malware and obtain personal information.

As I've recommended before, if you see a scam like this one, report it. Then go check your own Wall to make sure you're not spreading the scam; the sooner you clean it up and unlike the page, the better. You can even contact Facebook Security if you'd like to.

See also:

Facebook releases official Guide to Facebook Security

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