

# Cyber Tales by Tenali

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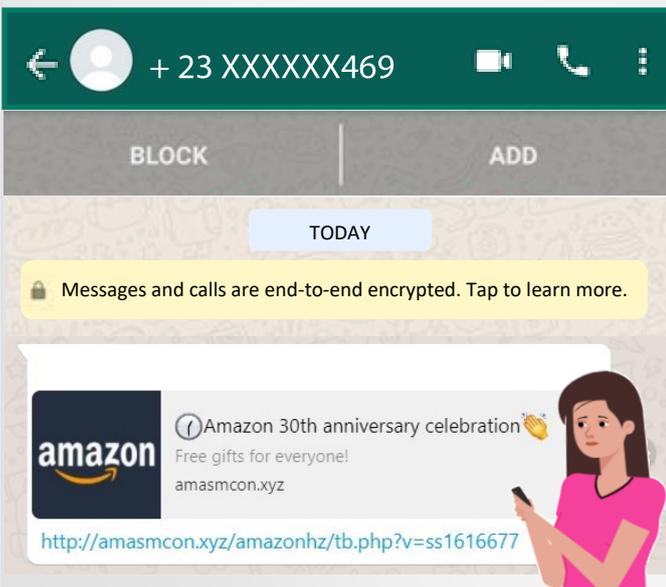


In today's world, everyone actively uses instant messaging platforms to share news, information etc. Among several instant messenger Apps, WhatsApp is a very popular platform. Cybercriminals are now exploiting the ability to send functional external links on WhatsApp to lure victims into downloading a malware into their device or in giving out their personal and sensitive information to commit fraud.

In this Edition, I will narrate you about a new scam that has arisen on the WhatsApp messaging platform in recent days.

## How Rita Got Trapped?

One day Rita received a message with a link on her WhatsApp regarding Free gift on Amazon's 30th Anniversary.



Being a frequent buyer of Amazon products, she immediately clicked the link for claiming the Free gift.

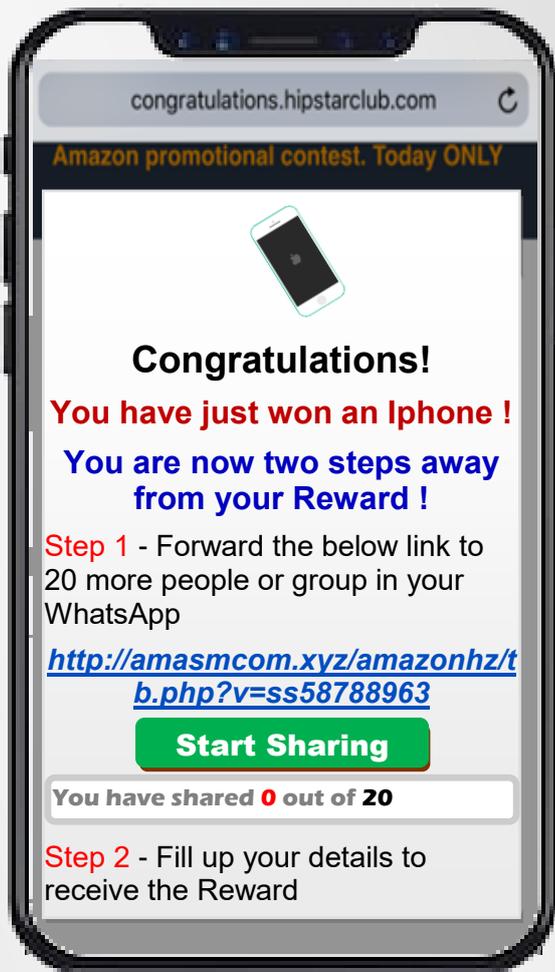


Wow !  
Let's try  
it...

The first two boxes were empty and in the last box there was a iPhone. She became very excited after winning.



She proceeded further to claim her reward.



Rita immediately started sharing the link with her WhatsApp contacts. She also forwarded the link to Tenali. After forwarding it to twenty people, when she started filling up her details, she got a call from Tenali.



Rita, you have forwarded a WhatsApp link. Have you checked what is inside the link?



Actually it is a participation link for Amazon's 30th Anniversary Promotional Contest.



How could you be so sure that the link is authentic?



I have already participated in it and won an iPhone as FREE Gift.



Have you ever thought that why Amazon will give you an expensive FREE gift?



But the website looks genuine to me!



Have you ever checked the link cautiously? Original Amazon's url is www.amazon.com. But here, the link is different & after http, "s" is also missing!

Tell me few things, from whom you have received the link? Have you visited Amazon website to check the offer?



Rita then carefully checked her WhatsApp Chat. Soon, she found that the sender of the link was unknown to her.

Ow! I haven't notice earlier that it was forwarded by some unknown person! I have also not cross-checked the veracity of offer from Amazon website.



It is a scam ! The link you received in your WhatsApp is a Phishing link to trap users.



The link is created by fraudster with an Eye-catchy subject so that IP addresses, device details & personal / sensitive information of different users can be captured.

Ow! I've only focused at the lucrative message and overlooked all other things. What should I do now?



Close the window of every websites related with that link, immediately block the sender and report the number as spam.



## What happened here?



The fraud involves the circulation of a WhatsApp link among different WhatsApp user. As soon as a user opens the link, a web-based interface lures them by promising an assured gift or informing them about the prize of a giveaway. Thereafter, it makes the user do certain tasks like sending the link to other WhatsApp users in exchange for assuring their prize, usually an expensive gift, which will never be delivered.

However, as the user opens the web page and performs all the tasks, the page collects vital information concerning the user including their IP address, name of

the device and other personal details such as name, age, address, Bank details etc.

## How these details can be misused?

- ◆ Identity theft
- ◆ Data can be sold to criminals on the dark web
- ◆ For doing fraudulent transactions
- ◆ For sending spam & malicious emails containing malware or links to malware
- ◆ Phishing websites use user's IP addresses to determine their geolocation & then change the language of the page & show various scam schemes relating to their region

## Few Preventive Measures:

- ⇒ *Don't click on spurious links received from unknown sources on WhatsApp or any social media platform.*
- ⇒ *Never trust on lucrative & tempting messages which are too good to be true. There is nothing as such as FREE lunch.*
- ⇒ *If any sender seems suspicious, block the sender and report as spam.*
- ⇒ *Never disclose personal / sensitive information in any unknown website.*
- ⇒ *Check web-addresses carefully for URL spelling, verified indicator such as lock sign, "s" after "http" etc.*
- ⇒ *If any such link has been clicked, then scan your device for any adware, malware or Potentially Unwanted Applications (PUAs).*

# WhatsApp Scam Continues...

Beware of **Spurious Links** with lucrative message on **WhatsApp** or any **Social Media Platform !!**



Scan this QR Code to Download & know the whole story



Govt. of India National Cyber Crime Helpline No. 155260 has been changed.

In case you have fallen prey to any cyber fraud -

**DIAL 1930**

and

Register your complaint at

<https://cybercrime.gov.in>



We welcome your valuable suggestions / feedback at [ciso.office@ucobank.co.in](mailto:ciso.office@ucobank.co.in)