

**Keeping Yourself Safe From
Internet Auction Scams
On Internet Auction Web sites.
(Written for New Zealand)**

A guide to spotting scams, and avoiding losing money to scammers.

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**(c) P M Andersen
Lower Hutt, New Zealand
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Internet Scams

Imagine, if you will, that you are walking along a dark street late at night. A stranger approaches you in the gloom and tells you that they have a laptop computer for sale. Rather than show you the computer they show you a glossy photo they have cut out of a magazine. You like the look of what you see and ask how much. The stranger gives you a price you find attractive, and suggests you go to the ATM and get the money.

You do. You give the stranger your money.

The stranger then says they will return in a while with your laptop.

You wait. And wait. And wait. Then it dawns on you that maybe, just maybe, you've been had.

It sounds fanciful, and yet this scenario is played out thousands of times every day at auction sites around the world.

Types of Internet Auction Scams

Many Internet scams are retreads of old postal scams, tried, true and tested for generations. There are some new ones based on computer technology, but the vast majority of losses are the same losses our grandparents suffered. Lets look at many of the most popular, and also look at what may be done about them. Listed in alphabetic order.

Bid Shielding: Placing high bids using disposable auction accounts to scare off other bidders. The scammer then retracts the high bid near to auction close, so obtaining the goods at a lower price than if the auction had been conducted normally. Loss to seller.



Spotting: Can be difficult to detect and needs a careful watch over time. Often there is a pattern of a bidder lodging a bid followed immediately by a newbie bidder (someone who has no record of prior trades) lodging a high bid.

Safety: If you suspect that this scam is being used on your auction you are under no obligation to accept the high bid (though who wants to turn money away). Withdraw the bid. Having a reserve figure you would be happy to sell for can stop these cheats in their tracks. They want to buy below market value. You should always notify your auction site if you detect bid shielding.

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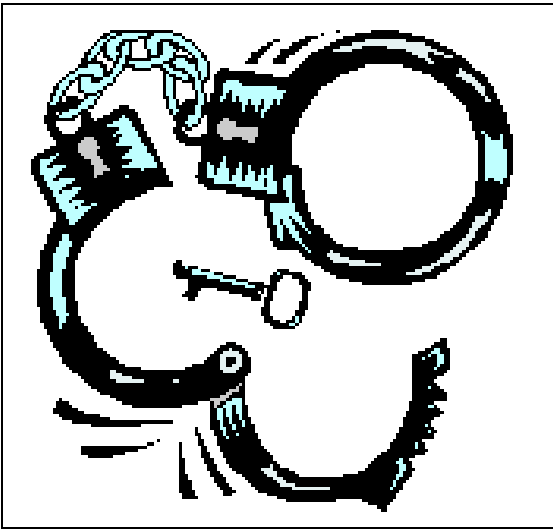
"Buy and Switch": The buyer returns a similar item that is damaged or a fake and claims the goods supplied weren't as expected. The seller refunds and is left with something of no value.



Spotting: This can only really be spotted by reviewing the buyer feedback carefully.

Safety: If you believe this has occurred in the past by the intending buyer then your options are to remove the bid and blacklist that buyer, or proceed and take precautions. Take clear photos of your goods before sending. The value of a digital camera is you can take a number of photos without the costs associated with traditional film cameras. Store the photos in a location you can find them (Recommend you store them in a file named Auction No XXXXXX). Note any defects, scrapes, scratches, nicks etc. For clothing or stuffed toys you can sew a small coloured thread in a seam and photograph. Other items can be marked with a small identifying mark with a security pen, the type where the ink only shows up under a black light. Don't do this however on collectors items. It may not prove you've been scammed, but in a claim situation the greater the weight of your arguments the more likely you are to succeed.

Failure to pay: The buyer uses one of any number of means to obtain the goods without paying. Rubber cheques, fake money orders, promises to pay on receipt, stolen credit cards are just some of the ways these scammers have profited. Often accompanied by requests to “send the goods to my sister in Indonesia”. This is a fraud perpetrated on sellers.



Spotting: Be very wary of any buyer who suggests you ship the goods immediately. They may want to get away before the bank finds out the cheque is made of rubber, or the credit card used is stolen (if dealing with someone able to accept credit cards). And don't fall for a sob story. Scammers make an art form of inventing people who “need” your goods for whatever reason, and make you feel guilty for ruining some poor soul's life. It just might be true, but chances are it's a ploy to separate you from your valuable goods.

Safety: Accept smart payments, that is cleared funds such as an internet transfer, or a credit card if you can. Remember, cheques take up to five days to clear, and some banks in New Zealand reserve the right to dishonour cheques up to 30 days after presentation. It is good practice to send the goods to a physical address (not a box number etc.), and also remember that these scammers often change the delivery address just before you are due to send the goods. For goods of some value use an escrow service such as Safetrader. See also “Fake Escrow Services”.

Failure to Supply: A classic auction scam. Often called the Romanian scam as it seems to be the sole industry in this country. Item descriptions and photos are often lifted from the web (Ebay is a favourite source). Often run in conjunction with e-mail addresses in the listing. The seller takes the money and supplies nothing in return. What they are looking for is someone (or more than one) who will part with money in return for heartache.



Spotting: Look at the feedback of the seller. This is what other traders have said about this person. No feedback = risk. Look at the length of time the trader has had an account. New account = risk. Is the trader authenticated. (Have they paid a small amount into their Trademe account). Kids sometimes try this and don't want to put anything up (or can't because they have no acceptable means of payment). Payments can usually be traced back to their source. Not authenticated = risk. Is the trader address verified. For a fee Trademe has a system where traders show that mail going to their recorded address actually reaches them. Not address verified = risk. Look at the goods on offer. Are they high value, or out of line with the traders normal merchandise (See "Hijacked Account"). Don't fall for the ploy of a trader putting an e-mail address in the ad. They want you to e-mail them, and the more the merrier. Deal outside the auction site and you will rightly get no sympathy. (See "Anatomy of a Scam"). Does the text make sense. Often lifted from other sites and amended. May make reference to non existent info or photos. Is payment as expected for the traders domicile. Often overseas scammers will claim to be in NZ, but request payment by an overseas method (eg Paypal)

Safety: Look at using an escrow service such as Safetrader. It may cost a few dollars, but if you end up losing more than you could afford to this scammer then escrow is the bargain of the year. (See the next scam regarding Escrow sites). Check the IP address that the e-mail(s) come from (see how in Tips, Tricks and Techniques on page 45). If the e-mails are not coming from the country stated in the traders

	<p>profile then DON'T BUY. If you are the successful buyer ask for the sellers name, address and land line phone number. After all, you give out your contact information, and it is quite reasonable to take precautions to ensure you are dealing with a legitimate trader. Then RING THE NUMBER SUPPLIED. Make sure you speak to the trader. If the trader is never available, then withdraw from the contract.</p>
<p>Fake Escrow Site: This is a new one developed for the computer age. You are asked to use an escrow service named by the trader. If you are the buyer the money goes in and the site vanishes. If you are the seller you get notification that funds are deposited (they aren't) you send the goods and don't get paid. A large number of these sites have been discovered and closed down overseas.</p>	<p>Spotting: The other party suggests using escrow to protect the parties, then suggests a service that is not one of the main or site services (such as Safetrader). This suggestion can come late in the buying process, or may be stated earlier.</p> <p>Safety: If the trader asks to use an escrow service you are unfamiliar with then inquire around. If in doubt, ask to use your escrow (Safetrader). If they won't use it the alarm bells should be ringing loud and clear.</p>

Fee Stacking Or Padding: Extra shipping fees or costs in excess of the real fees are requested from the buyer. A “little” crime that adds up big over many trades.



Spotting: You need to be familiar with postage and freight rates. Look for costs that seem out of line. Review the sellers feedback, buyers who have been bitten often will post feedback accordingly.

Safety: Ask the trader for the cost of postage/freight AND packing using the question facility on the bottom of the listing. What, you're not able to do this because you are not authenticated. Then you deserve to lose your money as the question facility is so valuable (and you can't ask questions without being authenticated). Any trader being evasive or unwilling to supply you a figure should be regarded with suspicion. Postage costs can be found here

http://www.nzpost.com/nzpost/control/letters/letters_sendnz

Hi Jacked Account: A legitimate traders account is taken over without permission for fraudulent reasons.



Spotting: A trader who has been inactive for some time suddenly starts trading, often offering high priced goods at a great price. Easiest to pick up by reviewing past feedback to see when the trading ceased, and clicking through on the auction numbers to review the type of goods the trader has traditionally sold.

Safety: Ask the seller where the goods come from. If the answer is unclear or unethical, steer clear. Remember, this thief probably has no goods to offer, so using an escrow service where any doubt exists is a great investment.

Internet Fencing: Stolen goods sold (fenced) through the auction site.



Spotting: Watch for on line auctions that sell goods sharply below normal cost. Keep an eye out for remarks such as “I work in **** and can get as many as you require” “Tell me what you want and I’ll get it” “I have a source of these and can let them go cheap”.

Safety: Ask the seller where the goods come from. If the answer is unclear or unethical, steer clear. Receiving stolen goods is also frowned upon.

Loss or Damage Claims: Hard to prove sometimes, and not always fraudulent. Things do get lost or broken. See also “Buy and Switch”.



Spotting: Only source of information is feedback, one of the most valuable resources on your auction site.


Safety: When in doubt use registered mail or courier. For a small payment goods are insured and tracked. Look at the buyers feedback (feedback works for both sellers and buyers). If there are unsatisfactory aspects to the feedback beware. It's a good idea to state in your conditions of sale you reserve the right to request using a delivery system that will protect you. You can always forgo this if a buyer with impeccable feedback purchases. Be aware of the insurance cover offered by the various means of transport.


Misrepresentation: Another classic. The goods are described to sound different to reality. Value, authenticity or condition may be misrepresented. Use of photos of similar items, or doctored photos happens here too. Goods other than those offered may be described with only a passing reference to the “real” goods. A good recent example is an ebook giving wholesale purchase addresses where almost the whole listing was given over to describing a mobile phone



Spotting: Check the sellers feedback. This is a crime that is quickly picked up and reported here. Check the time the trader has been a member, the number of trades completed (and also the number of blue kiwis for incomplete trades). Look at whether the trader is authenticated and address verified.

Safety: Check the listing script carefully. Look at the photo. If there are aspects of the description you are unclear on, then ask questions. Keep an eye out for terms you may not be familiar with, but which may be accepted in some circles. (Such as cz in the description of some jewelry). Ask what it means. Better to be simply thought foolish than to be foolish. If they avoid answering, go elsewhere with your money. If the photo is unclear, ask for another to be posted. Also watch out for photos of items lifted from another source. Colours may vary, models may not be the same, condition could be different. Ask for verification of authenticity for artworks, jewelry and the like. Ask for the right to inspect the goods and have them authenticated by your experts before payment. If you receive goods that are not as expected then contact the seller immediately. Inform the seller of the problems and request your money back. Be cool, don't get heated. You want the problem sorted, and there may actually be a valid reason. If the problem isn't resolved then report the trader to the auction site and post appropriate feedback. (Hint. Many traders faced with this problem try to bargain with the feedback post. It often doesn't work. A number have been caught and unable to place appropriate feedback because they forget they only have a limited number of edits

	<p>available. Don't post feedback until the trade is either successful or unsatisfactory. Then post honest feedback).</p>
<p>Piracy and counterfeiting: Pirated or copied music and software is sold. Also jewelry and collectibles.</p> 	<p>Spotting: The standard of the seller is often a giveaway. Read the feedback, see if others have had the same problem. Look for DVD's where the movie is not yet released in New Zealand. The DVD will lose much of it's appeal once the movie is generally available. Watch for "cheap" prices. These criminals make their money by flogging off cheaply made copies, and can therefore offer a bargain. Look at the IP addresses in e-mails. Many of these originate in the east. With software be mindful of descriptions. Backups and archive are two favourite descriptions. Software without the required stickers and codes will be useless so read the description carefully. Also some software that has already been activated (the activated copy may be on a machine somewhere) may no longer operate. If in doubt use the invaluable question facility on the auction.</p> <p>Safety: Read the auction description carefully. Ask questions. Where did it come from? Is it in the original box or container? Has it been activated? Watch for phrases like "Backup" "Archive" . Also words that suggest without saying that it's a copy or knockoff of an original. Read up the Rolex watches section in the auction to see some of the phrases used. This is one category where common sense is invaluable. Remember the old adage "If it's too good to be true, it probably is". If it's art or collectibles do research. How likely is an original to be available at the selling price. What authentication is available, and do you trust it.. Where did</p>

	<p>the item come from, and how did it come into the sellers possession? Keep copies of all replies. Arrange to have the artwork authenticated by your expert, and if the seller won't agree to making the sale subject to satisfactory authentication then keep your money in your pocket and let the seller go elsewhere looking for a mug.</p>
<p>Shell Auctions: Not so common in New Zealand. Looking to obtain credit card info and names. There is no merchandise, the seller is after your identity.</p> 	<p>Spotting: Seller is more interested in your personal details than the actual sale. Look at the feedback of the seller. This is what other traders have said about this person. No feedback = risk. Look at the length of time the trader has had an account. New account = risk. Is the trader authenticated. (Have they paid a small amount into their Trademe account). Payments can usually be traced back to their source. Not authenticated = risk. Is the trader address verified. For a fee Trademe has a system where traders show that mail going to their recorded address actually reaches them. Not address verified = risk. Look at the goods on offer. Are they high value, or out of line with the traders normal merchandise (See "Hijacked Account"). Don't fall for the ploy of a trader putting an e-mail address in the ad. They want you to e-mail them, and the more the merrier. Deal outside the auction site and you will rightly get no sympathy. (See "Anatomy of a Scam").</p> <p>Safety: Never give out personal details including drivers license number, passport number, etc. If your credit card is compromised get in touch with your bank immediately. Maximum liability is usually \$50.00.</p>

Shilling: Using accomplices or multiple user identities to bid up the price of goods. Using the philosophy that if lots of people want it, it must be worthwhile.

Spotting: Review the bid history from the sellers recent auctions. Are there the same bidders appearing, bidding and not buying. Sometimes the shill accidentally buys. Look for these bidders who buy but do not complete (the blue kiwi). Sometimes work in a group so you may need to check several accounts and a number of auctions.

Safety: If spotted report to the auction site and avoid these sellers. Blacklist so you don't forget. You want nothing to do with these cheats, now or in the future.

Triangulation: The seller offers to send you the item (usually new, brand name goods) on approval. They then use stolen credit cards to order the item shipped to you. You pay for the goods (in cash) after receiving them, and get a visit shortly thereafter from the police. Credit card fraud and theft.



Spotting: The seller seems so helpful, wanting to trust you with the goods even before you've paid for them. Then it's cash payments required. They want the cash so they can disappear before the credit card company gets back to the supplier. Note. There are many thousands of stolen credit cards out there.

Safety: Don't buy from a seller who will take only cash. Cash leaves no telltale trail. The buyer may also ask for cash to be remitted via Western Union or similar where the pick up arrangements leave much to be desired. If you think you're getting the better of someone in this trade, think again. These scammers are experts, you're only a novice.

The Anatomy of a Scam

A Failure To Supply - See Page 7

See how a would be scammer tries to get the best of our heroes, Ian C Fruit and Bob D Aeysr. These are two personas adopted to chase this person down. For those not quite up to word games, “I see through it” and “beady eyes”.

You will see the steps from the original auction listing, through the e-mail correspondence to the eventual disengagement (much to the scammers disappointment).

The techniques and tools used will be discussed in the third section of this ebook.

The Story.

It all started on the morning of the 17th of March, shortly before 8:00 am.


A scan of the latest auctions listed on the Trademe web site revealed a listing for a Canon Copier with print and fax capability, and a two year warranty. The starting bid was shown as \$1000.

This listing immediately roused the curiosity of this viewer because.

- It is an unusual item to auction
- The price seemed very low.

The Listing

[eone](#) | [Old Friends](#) | [Flat Hunt](#) | [SafeTrader](#)

 [Logout](#) [Help](#)

[Sell](#) [My Trade Me](#) [Community](#)

Featured Hot Closing soon Consumer guides 8:05 am

[Browse](#) > [Electronics](#) > [Video cameras & equipment](#) > [Other](#)


CANON IR400 COPIER w/PRINT & FAX - 2YEAR WARRANTY

No bids | Closes: Wed, 24 Mar

Starting bid: \$ Autobid [?](#)

Canon IR400 Digital Photocopier
Benefit your business

Superior quality. Improved productivity. Increased time saving efficiency. That, quite simply, is the difference that the digital Canon IR400 Digital Photocopier makes to your workload. Built-in reliability ensures a constant turnover that delivers a truly competitive edge. All with smooth upgrading to a network printer, fax and scanner, whenever you want.




[Click to enlarge](#)

Key features

- Rapid 40 copies per minute • Limitless duplexing without speed loss
- High copy quality (1,200 x 600 dpi) • High print queue performance
- Scan once, print many • Memory sorting features
- Ideal for departmental printing and copying

[Add to watchlist](#) [View questions and comments](#) [Email to a friend](#)

Closes 7:50 am, Wed 24 Mar.
Auction Number: 9785785

About the seller	Payment / shipping
<p>daniel_yents (new )</p> <p>No one has traded with daniel_yents yet Member since March 2004</p> <p>Seller's other listings Read seller's feedback</p>	<p>Location: United States, Other country Shipping: at: daniel_yents@yahoo.com Payment: cash, cheque, bank deposit SafeTrader: Doesn't support SafeTrader learn more</p>

Place a bid

The reserve price has not been met.

Starting bid \$1,000.00

Your bid \$

Auto-bid [?](#)

Email Reminder [?](#)

The Things I Look For

The screenshot shows an internet auction page for a Canon IR400 copier. Red arrows numbered 1 through 12 point to specific features and elements:

- 1: Navigation menu (Sell, My Trade Me, Community)
- 2: Item title: CANON IR400 COPIER w/PRINT & FAX - 2YEAR WARRANTY
- 3: Starting bid field (\$1000) and Place Bid button
- 4: Product description and image
- 5: Navigation icons (back, forward)
- 6: Add to watchlist button
- 7: View questions and comments button
- 8: Payment / shipping information (Location, Shipping, Payment, SafeTrader)
- 9: Seller's name (daniel_yents) and member since date
- 10: Seller's other listings link
- 11: Read seller's feedback link
- 12: Place a bid form (Starting bid, Your bid, Auto-bid, Email Reminder)

Notes On Pointers

1. Scammers usually pick items that are higher priced and desirable. Electronics, consumer named brands etc. Look at the category the listing is under. To get an idea of the number of scams under some Trademe categories search for plasma tv under expired listings (to get expired listings click on “more options” on the search box, then select “expired listings” from the drop down box.. You can see the number of withdrawn auctions, taken down by the administrator as scams. Even some of the “legitimate” looking listings like [sony 61 inch flat panel plasma tv \(l@@k\)](#) when clicked on will show that it has been withdrawn by the Administrator.
2. The heading of a listing is designed to attract bidders. Look carefully at the information. In this case the tip off was the mention of a two year warranty, with the goods apparently coming from outside New Zealand (see item 7) A check with Canon New Zealand revealed this information to be incorrect. The copiers come with a service agreement package (so much per page copied) and no warranty as shown. Also, goods that are imported from the gray market are often not warranted by the local agents. (Gray market goods are goods legitimately purchased overseas and then exported to another country where the seller does not have export rights) The local agent of course gets no profit from the goods, and is not interested in fixing any problems. A transaction of this nature is “all cost and no profit”. The heading is also useful in searching the web to find if the ad has been pinched from another source.
[Http://vivisimo.com/search?v:sources=eBay&v:project=eBay&form=advanced-eBay&v:frame=form](http://vivisimo.com/search?v:sources=eBay&v:project=eBay&form=advanced-eBay&v:frame=form) is a useful search tool to query Ebay.com, the source of many of the overseas scams appearing on Trademe.
3. The text of many scams is “borrowed” from overseas web pages, often from Ebay.com. Look at the text. Does it appear to have been professionally written. Cut and paste distinctive passages into your Google search engine and see if you can spot where it comes from. If someone is lifting the text without giving credit to the originating source, are they honest?
4. Photo’s are also borrowed. Many of the scammers are so dumb they leave watermarks on the photos showing the source (usually Ebay.com). If you want to easily copy write your photos to stop this being done, see Irfanview under “Tricks Tips and Techniques” on page 44. This picture is the same as pictures on an ad in Ebay by Copiertechn.

5. Look at the information by the traders name. This trader is new. New traders pose the greatest risk in that they have not yet completed any successful trades. Nobody knows who they are, what their e-mail address is, where their bank account is etc. While everybody starts as a newbie and most newbies can progress to being worthwhile traders, most scams are perpetrated by newbies. My recommendation is to exercise extreme caution when trading with an unproven trader. Once the trader has completed a trade and received a feedback the word "New" will be replaced by the net number of feedback's.
6. The warning sign identifies new traders - that is traders who have joined Trade Me in the last month and are yet to credit their account. When buying from these members Trademe recommends that you review the sellers feedback. Obviously, everybody is a new trader at some point. However, if the seller has no trading history Trademe recommends that you use Safe Trader to protect yourself. If you see stars here, a red star means a member is authenticated. These members are likely to be more trustworthy through virtue of having credited their Trade Me Pre-Pay account.

Used in combination with a member's feedback, the red star helps to denote these traders as having a higher level of trust than non-authenticated members.

Trademe recommends that you consider this in the context of their trading history and feedback. It is possible for members to have multiple stars. A number of overseas scammers are believed to have used stolen credit cards to credit their account, and therefore gain authentication. Not always the safeguard you might assume.

7. Look at where the trader claims to be from. Experience shows that this claim is often false in the case of scammers. Traders who tell you they are from overseas are at least signaling that the trade could contain difficulties. This trader claimed to be from USA, later gave an address in Italy, but was revealed to be in Romania. You will be shown later how to work out which country a trader actually is in. If the trader lies about their domicile it's a pretty major flag that you are being scammed.
8. Look carefully at the shipping details. Scammers often use overseas type services such as UPS as their shipper. Also the spelling in this area may not be of the same standard as the product description. One well known scammer advises he will shipp...In this case the scammer simply used this box to display his e-mail address. This is another major tip off of a scam, as the scammer expects the auction to be withdrawn by the administrator, and hopes that suckers will make e-mail contact so that a scam can be run off site. Scammers also invariably use disposable e-mail addresses such as Hotmail or yahoo. Once they have your money they simply abandon the address and start another for the next scam.

9. More details on the seller. The first line gives a % readout of the sellers feedback status, or in the case of a new trader shows that no-one has traded yet. The second line shows how long the trader has been a member. Scammers operate in the present, as soon as they have joined most like to launch their scam. A brand new seller is another flag of possible trouble.
10. Payment arrangements are also revealing, but once again the scammer can write anything here. In this case the scammer said they would accept cash, cheque or bank deposit, but when payment time came around Western Union was requested. Western Union is in itself a major flag of dishonesty, as many of the scams have used this method to separate the victim and the cash. Changes in payment arrangement from those advertised is also a major flag. Scammers don't want to use an escrow service such as Safetrader. This means the goods are inspected prior to release of funds, and if there are no goods to sell then this makes it difficult to get the funds (but not impossible) For more information on Safetrader see http://www.trademe.co.nz/STRUCTURE/HELPDOCS/DEFAULT.ASP?help_id=231 . There is a growing overseas trend for fake escrow sites. See this subject in types of scams.
11. Sellers other listings can show whether they may be a scammer. If not authenticated traders are limited to the number of items they can offer. Look for other listings and see if they are similar to the offering you are considering. Many scammers list one item only, but it's not unknown for scammers to list several. The sellers feedback here is an invaluable source of information. Traders without feedback, with negative feedback, with excessive numbers of neutral feed backs and with numbers of uncompleted auctions are all to be treated with caution. You can click through from feedback placed to view the auction, another source of information on the traders history. If they have bought one or two trifling items and then offer something expensive for sale it could be problematic.
12. The start price is often used as a come on to attract victims. In this case the New Zealand RRP of the copier was over \$17,000. However, traders legitimately use low starting prices to obtain bids. Enough bids will promote a listing into "Hot" category where much of the exciting trading action occurs. This is part of the overall picture.
13. Not shown. The question facility at the foot of the page is often overlooked by buyers. Ask questions about anything you are not certain of. Unanswered questions (the number is shown) can point to a potential problem trade, as can a differing standard of English from that used in the product description. Scammers often place their e-mail address in answers to questions, another technique to encourage buyers to move off site.

In This Case I Saw.

- Expensive electronic equipment
- Warranty instead of a service contract
- No feedback
- Not authenticated
- Overseas (USA) domiciled trader
- E-mail address displayed
- Disposable e-mail address
- Doesn't support our escrow service (Safetrader)
- Brand new trader
- Starting bid attractive to net the greedy bargain hunters

These items were enough to alert me that this was almost absolutely a scam.

The next step was to check overseas for the goods on Ebay and Yahoo auctions.

[Http://vivisimo.com/search?v:sources=eBay&v:project=eBay&form=advanced-eBay&v:frame=form](http://vivisimo.com/search?v:sources=eBay&v:project=eBay&form=advanced-eBay&v:frame=form)

I copied the heading from the listing and pasted into the search box. And bingo, there it was complete with the same photo. Click on the link to get the full listing. See the next page.

Ebay Listing

eBay item 3803679847 [...]

[home](#) | [pay](#) | [register](#) | [sign in](#) | [services](#) | [site map](#) | [help](#) ?

ebay® [Browse](#) [Search](#) [Sell](#) [My eBay](#) [Community](#) Powered By **IBM**

[Back to list of items](#) Listed in category: [Business & Industrial](#) > [Office Products](#) > [Copiers & Copier Supplies](#) > [Copiers - Office](#) > [Canon](#)
Also listed in: [Business & Industrial](#) > [Printing & Graphic Arts](#) > [High Volume Copiers](#) > [Black & White Copiers](#)

CANON IR400 COPIER w/PRINT & FAX - WARRANTY Item number: 3803679847

Seller of this item? [Sign in](#) for your status. [Add to watch list](#) in My eBay



[Go to larger picture](#)

Starting bid: **US \$4,100.00**
[Place Bid >](#)

Time left: **6 days 3 hours**
10-day listing
Ends Mar-22-04 14:02:57 PST
[Add to Calendar](#)

Start time: Mar-12-04 14:02:57 PST

History: [0 bids](#)

Buy It Now Price: **US \$4,195.00**
[Buy It Now >](#)

Item location: Trumbull, CT
United States /Hartford

Ships to: Worldwide
[Shipping and payment details](#)

Seller information

[copiertech2000](#) (195) **Power Seller**

Feedback Score: 195
Positive Feedback: 99.5%
Member since Sep-27-01 in United States

[Read feedback comments](#)

[Ask seller a question](#)

[View seller's other items](#)

Visit this seller's eBay Store!
[Copiertech2000's Copier Store](#)

Buyer Protection Offered
[See coverage and eligibility](#)

After purchasing, pay instantly with your credit card through PayPal!



[Click to supersize this picture](#)

Click on a picture to enlarge



[Supersize Picture](#)



[Supersize Picture](#)



[Supersize Picture](#)



[Supersize Picture](#)

This was for a completely rebuilt copier with a 45 day warranty. I needed to search further. Using script from the goods description in the Trademe listing I searched Google and found....



Copiers

Canon IR400 Digital Photocopier

Benefit your business

Superior quality. Improved productivity. Increased time saving efficiency. That, quite simply, is the difference that the digital Canon IR400 Digital Photocopier makes to your workload. Built-in reliability ensures a constant turnover that delivers a truly competitive edge. All with smooth upgrading to a network printer, fax and scanner, whenever you want.



Key features

- Rapid 40 copies per minute
- High copy quality (1,200 x 600 dpi)
- Scan once, print many
- Ideal for departmental printing and copying
- Limitless duplexing without speed loss
- High print queue performance
- Memory sorting features

Outstanding productivity and Performance

Digital technology has taken document printing and copying into a new dimension and the Canon Canon IR400 Digital Photocopier allows you to enjoy its full potential. This versatile network-imaging device combines creative document facilities with a superb range of options for document finishing, network printing, scanning and faxing. All of which accommodate your needs today and can adapt, as your business needs change.

All the pieces in the puzzle were now present. Time to locate our scammer.

The correspondence that follows was also mirrored (with enough modification) from I C Fruit so the scammer thought he had two suckers at one hit.

A quick e-mail from MY disposable Yahoo e-mail account to daniel_yents@ yahoo.com

Daniel

A friend of mine printed out your ad on the trade me website yesterday as he knows I want something like this. I went to bid on the auction and couldn't find it. Please don't tell me you have sold it already! If you have and the sale falls through, or if you can get another copier, I would like to get one. Machines with these specs are hard to get in New Zealand, and expensive.

Please, I hope you can help.

And very shortly an answer from daniel_yents

Dear sir !

Yes i sell the Canon Copier but i still have two pieces ! So if you are really interested please e-mail me back !

Regards !

Do you Yahoo!?
Yahoo! Mail - More reliable, more storage, less spam

A quick e-mail showing interest, and asking for details brings the following response.

Another message from daniel_yents@ yahoo.com (reproduced here with the header). My e-mail address has been blanked out as I don't wish to receive e-mail to this scam hunting account.

X-Apparently-To: XXXXX@yahoo.co.nz via 66.218.78.170; Thu, 18 Mar 2004 11:54:54 -0800
Return-Path: <daniel_yents@yahoo.com>
Received: from 66.218.93.157 (HELO web41906.mail.yahoo.com) (66.218.93.157)
by mta111.mail.sc5.yahoo.com with SMTP; Thu, 18 Mar 2004 11:54:54 -0800
Received: from [82.77.204.167] by web41906.mail.yahoo.com via HTTP; Thu, 18 Mar 2004 11:54:52 PST
Date: Thu, 18 Mar 2004 11:54:52 -0800 (PST)
From: Daniel Yents <daniel_yents@yahoo.com>
Subject: Re: Canon Copier
To: Bob D Aeys <XXXXXX@yahoo.co.nz>
In-Reply-To: <20040318183347.93312.qmail@web40711.mail.yahoo.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/alternative; boundary="0-76574364-1079639692=:22657"
Content-Length: 1790

--0-76574364-1079639692=:22657
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Dear sir ,

First of all i want to thank you for contact me and i hope we will make a good business together. About the deal there are a few things that needs to be set up before finish this deal with success for both sides .

1.For the start i will need your full name and adress (or company name and adress) so i can make a reservation at U.P.S. SERVICE for shipping.

2.After that i will also send you a scanned paper from the U.P.S. label status with their signature and stamp and you can see on the U.P.S. receipt the description of the merchandise inside the colet (CANON IR400 COPIER w/PRINT & FAX brand new in t box with all accesories and two years international warranty !) , goods that are checked and packed in good conditions by the U.P.S staff .

3.The next step depends on you , after you will receive the order from U.P.S. scanned with the colet deposited you must transfer the money (2700 usd) via Western Union and after you deposit the money you must to send me the scanned paper from Western Union with the transfer done . It is an expensive order and i cannot afford to be tricked and you must understand this matter . If you don't like the product you can send it back in 7 days and you will recive your money back !

This is my full name and adress :

FIRST NAME : TOMA
LAST NAME : UNGUROIU
ADRESS : VIA A CIANO 2/M
ZIP : 71100
CITY : FOGGIA
COUNTRY : ITALY

We don't accept c.o.d. or escrow because of three reasons:

- the delivery takes to long this way and also the costs are to big,
- it is the possibility that you can reject the colet at destination(it happened in other cases) by sort of reasons and what we do in this case ? we lose the shipping taxes and also precious time ,
- with our method the shipping taxes are zero because we will start the delivery "as a donation" to your home adress and U.P.S. staff doesn't charge for such operations as donations.

So, in hoping you understood our terms of payment and delivery we want to thank you again for your time and if you'll decide to buy from us, we will gladly make the deal with you.

Best regards and have a nice day !

THANK YOU!

Do you Yahoo!?

So what have we got here.

1. He is no longer Daniel Yents. He now calls himself Toma Unguroiu
2. He's no longer in USA. He's in Italy
3. Buy now price is US\$2,700 (around NZ\$4,200)
4. Don't want to use COD or escrow (surprise!)
5. Use Western Union to make payment
6. He has a "dodgy" scheme to evade taxes and fees
7. And most important of all, he's given me his IP address (shown in red above for convenience)

Out with my trusty IP tracer which shows

```
% Rights restricted by copyright.
% See http://www.ripe.net/ripenc/db/pub-services/db/copyright.html

inetnum: 82.77.204.160 - 82.77.204.191
netname: RO-VL-AINET-20040123
descr: Ainet GC
country: RO
admin-c: AG2385-RIPE
tech-c: AG2385-RIPE
tech-c: RDS-RIPE
status: ASSIGNED PA

remarks: +-----+
| ABUSE CONTACT: abuse@rdsnet.ro IN CASE OF HACK ATTACKS, |
| ILLEGAL ACTIVITY, VIOLATION, SCANS, PROBES, SPAM, ETC. |
remarks: +-----+

notify: notify-ripe@rdsnet.ro
mnt-by: AS8708-MNT
mnt-lower: AS8708-MNT
changed: adonay@rdsnet.ro 20040123
source: RIPE

route: 82.76.0.0/14
descr: RDSNET
origin: AS8708
holes: 82.79.10.0/23
mnt-by: AS8708-MNT
mnt-lower: AS8555-MNT
changed: bcd@rdsnet.ro 20040331
source: RIPE

role: Romania Data Systems NOC
address: 71-75 Dr. Staicovici
address: Bucharest / ROMANIA
phone: +40 21 30 10 888
fax-no: +40 21 30 10 892
e-mail: contact-tech@rdsnet.ro
admin-c: AS1385-RIPE
tech-c: BS747-RIPE
tech-c: MIHV1-RIPE
tech-c: ADON-RIPE
nic-hdl: RDS-RIPE
remarks: -----
remarks: Abuse reports: abuse@rdsnet.ro
remarks: NOC Phone 24x7: +40 21 30 10 888
remarks: NOC E-mail: contact-tech@rdsnet.ro
remarks: -----
notify: notify-ripe@rdsnet.ro
mnt-by: AS8708-MNT
changed: tim@rdsnet.ro 20040112
source: RIPE

person: Andreea Gangu
address: Emil Avramescu 35 street, Central Square,Diablo Club
address: Ramnicu Valcea / ROMANIA
phone: +40-722-559223
e-mail: ainet@unet.ro
nic-hdl: AG2385-RIPE
notify: notify-ripe@rdsnet.ro
mnt-by: AS8708-MNT
changed: adonay@rdsnet.ro 20040123
source: RIPE
```

Yes. He's in Romania, the world capital for Internet scams. The final proof!!!

Another e-mail back to him.

Thank you very much for your e-mail. I am so pleased that you still have 2 units available after selling the first one. I will read the information you have sent me and make sure the specifications are what I require.

It is Friday here in New Zealand now, and I am busy over the weekend playing rugby. I should be able to write to you again on Monday to tell you if this machine is what I am looking for.

Is the machine currently in New Zealand, or would it be shipped in, if so where from? Just thinking of when it would be available.

Best Regards

=====
Bob D Aeyrs

And he replies (with pictures)

Dear sir !

This is the specifications and pictures with CANON IR400 COPIER w/PRINT & FAX brand new as you see in the pictures ! It has two years international warranty ! The buy now price is 2700 usd with all shipping taxes included !

CANON IR400 COPIER w/PRINT & FAX - WARRANTY

Canon IR400 Digital Photocopier
Benefit your business

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The Canon IR400 Digital Photocopier integrates unsurpassed levels of performance and multi-function capability whether connected to the network or serving stand-alone environments. So whether your document management needs call for printing, copying, faxing or scanning, you can be rest assured the Canon IR400 Digital Photocopier can be precisely configured to match your needs.

Exceptional Quality

With Canon's high-definition digital output, copies always come out sharper and clearer - without any drop in image quality. Complex charts and fine details are captured perfectly, thanks to an ultra-high, interpolated resolution.

Less Waiting

The 'scan once, print many' ability saves precious time. Originals are scanned rapidly, so they can be removed while the copying process is completing. Print queue performance is also high so you don't have to spend time waiting at the machine.

High Speed

Standard duplexing is carried out continuously, at a rapid 40 copies per minute, which allows you to produce a large volume of two-sided copies without any drop in engine speed. This new duplexing technology ensures virtually limitless two-sided copying.

More Paper

There are no more paper replenishment problems, with a total feed capacity of 5,550 sheets. Two 500-sheet cassettes and a 50-sheet tray are standard. Then you can add optional drawer pedestals and a paper deck, to make full use of the Canon IR400 Digital Photocopier's flexible copying and finishing abilities.

Memory Sorting

The Canon IR400 Digital Photocopier can automatically sort copies directly on the document output tray. And to ensure optimum copying results, regardless of the orientation of the document, automatic portrait/landscape rotation is also featured, thus eliminating any unnecessary copying errors.

Sorting and Stapling

High capacity finishing for all paper sizes is simple with Canon's special, optional Finisher. When combined with the

(c) P M Andersen

Lower Hutt, New Zealand

May be copied or disseminated without amendment. May not be sold.

Professional Booklets
Produce booklets while cutting paper costs considerably with Canon's state-of-the-art optional Saddle Finisher (C2). Fine saddle stitching and document folding lets you prepare a wide range of materials for all your business needs.

Upgrade Effortlessly
Thanks to its advanced digital technology, the Canon IR400 Digital Photocopier allows smooth, easy upgrading whenever you want. You can expand your productivity to the limit by adding on rapid network printing, high quality faxing and even scanning.

Do you Yahoo!?
Yahoo! Mail - More reliable, more storage, less spam



Look at the photos on the Ebay listing!!!!

I need time after the weekend, so invent a wife

Hello Mr Toma Unguroiu,

My husband Bob has asked me to write to you. He has unfortunately been injured playing rugby over the weekend and will be in hospital for several days. I am sure you are aware of the injuries that occur in this game as we see on television that your Italian team is improving steadily, and it is obvious that our national sport is gaining popularity in Italy.

Bob has asked me to request you to arrange delivery of one copier that he has been writing to you about as follows:

Mr Bob D Ayers
Central Station
Corner of Victoria and Harris Streets
Wellington
New Zealand

I understand from what he has told me that you will send a copy of UPS confirmation. Bob will no doubt arrange to forward the required money to you as soon as he is able.

I hope this is all right. When I was talking to Bob about this I was naturally quite upset. I think I got his instructions, but if I have done anything wrong please tell me.

I Remain

Rhea L Aeyrs

My wife "realize" (another word game) has given the address of the Central Police Station in Wellington as the delivery address! The thought for Bob being in hospital was to allow time to contact the Romanian authorities (playing rugby at 58 years is bound to lead to injury!)

He replies right back...

Dear Bob !

I need your full name for the delivery !

Mr Bob **D. Ayers**

please give me your complete name !

No sympathy for his customer. It's right to business....

And my “wife” replies....

Mr Toma Unguroiu

I have just come in from seeing Bob at the hospital.
He was keen to know if I had written to you as he
asked and I see from your e-mail I made a mistake. I'm
so sorry. Bob's name is of course Robert, everyone
calls him Bob. His full correct name is

Mr Robert Dameon Ayers

I hope this is what you need.

Thank you so much for being patient with me.

Rhea L Aeyrs

And he's right back to business.....

Dear sir !

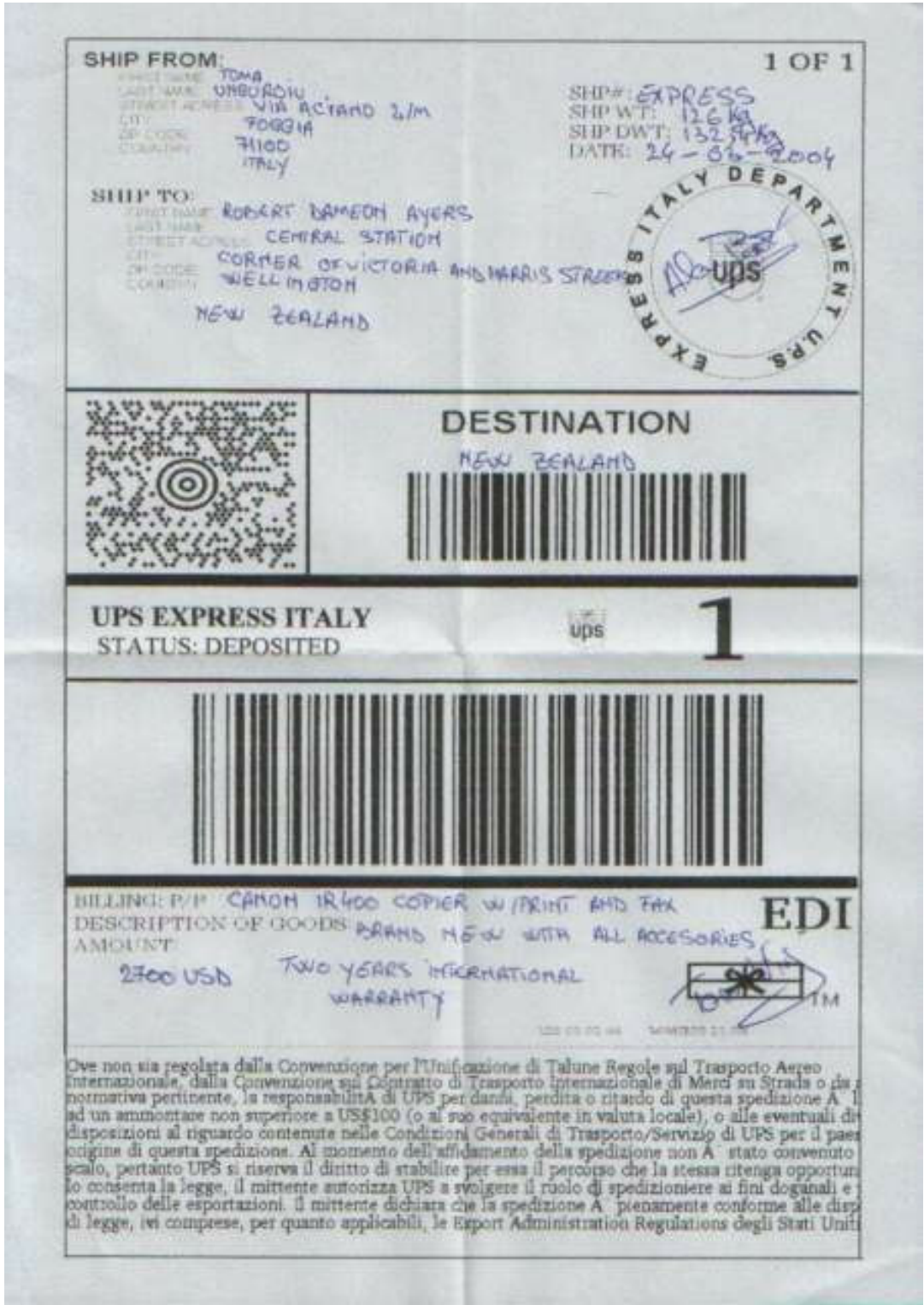
I was to U.P.S and i deposite the colet , with CANON IR400 COPIER w/PRINT & FAX brand new in the box with all acc
international warranty , on your friend name and address as you see in the scanned paper ! All you have to do now is to go
deposit the money 2700 usd on my name and address . After that you must to give me the scanned paper with the transfer .
money with your colmplete name Robert Dameon Ayers !

I hope everythings will be ok and i wish to have a good business relations in the future !

Regards !

Still doesn't care I might be lying in hospital, in pain. All he can see is that his scam is working.

See the next page for the document he sends. Note the artful folds, he wants me to think it's been
in his pocket coming back from UPS in Foggia, Italy. But I know he is in Romania, a long way to
Italy..



Now I have all the documentation.

- Original listing
- E-mails to and fro
- Shipping document

Time to see if the local Romanian authorities will do anything. I'm not holding my breath, but here goes...

Subject: Internet Fraud

Hello.

I'm writing to you in the hope you can help to apprehend a fraudster who is operating out of your country. This person posted goods for sale on a New Zealand auction website. He stated he was in USA. During correspondence with this person he later changed his story to say he was in Italy. However, all his emails show his IP address as being in Romania.

I have taken the liberty of writing to you at this address obtained from your Government website. Unfortunately, while some of the pages are well written and have a translation button into English (my only language) the Ministry of Justice web page does not. I am therefore unable to direct this query to where it is most likely to be properly handled.

I have attached copies of emails from this person calling himself Daniel Yents and later Toma Unguriou. This will enable the appropriate law enforcement department(s) to track him down and prosecute if appropriate. I also have copies of the web page of the original auction listing and also an Ebay webpage for the same goods, and personal profile posted on the auction site and copies of my emails to him (in the form of two separate potential victims). These documents can be supplied later if required to pursue a prosecution. Also attached is a document purporting to show shipping arrangements of goods from Italy.

I have arranged the matter so this person believes he will be in possession of funds towards the end of this week. This should give your agencies time to investigate.

Please ensure any replies to me are in English. As stated previously I am unable to understand other languages.

I hope you are able to bring this matter to a successful conclusion, and await developments with interest.

This e-mail copied to the following:

Committee for Inquiry of abuses at cabu@senat.ro
Judicial Committee at comjuri@senat.ro
Ministry of Communication & Information at Webmaster@mcti.ro
Ministry of Foreign Affairs at mae@mae.ro
President at ioniliescu@presidency.ro
Varujan Pambuccian at varujan@cdep.ro

Thank You

My Name
xxxxx@bigfoot.com

Two replies come in.....

From the person who is the No. 1 advocate for cleaning up the Romanian Internet reputation...

For any criminal acts regarding IT systems you may complain to the Romanian police (Romanian cybercrime center) using the following address <https://www.efrauda.ro/admin/default.htm>
<<http://www.ceris.ro/en/home.html>> .

Sincerely,
Varujan Pambuccian

Not a lot of help. The site is for those that have already been ripped off. I reply...

Hello, Varujan Pambuccian,

I do not propose to complete the form at the Romanian Cybercrime Centre. It does not adequately cover the situation of an attempted crime presently underway. Much of the information (Names , IP contacts etc) has already been supplied. If your police system cannot work with this information I am obviously wasting my time in supplying further information. I guess the criminals will just continue to prosper, unfortunately to the detriment of the reputation of the Romanian state.

Thank you for taking the time to reply to my e-mail.

And another, more helpful sounding e-mail..

Dear My Name,

I received your complaint regarding a romanian cyberfraud.
Your complaint will be transmitted to competent authority from Romania, and the person from this authority will be touch with you by e-mail.
I wish that this situation will be solved.

Please be kind and complete a complaint on www.efrauda.ro, this site is a romanian cybercrime portal.
eFrauda mission is to address fraud committed over the Internet. For victims of Internet fraud, eFrauda provides a convenient and easy-to-use reporting mechanism that alerts authorities of a suspected Internet fraud. For law enforcement and regulatory agencies at all levels, eFrauda offers a central repository for complaints related to Internet fraud, works to quantify fraud patterns, and provides timely statistical data of current fraud trends.

eFrauda is offered to provide a method for romanian citizens and from abroad to promptly and directly communicate their complaints to romanian government agencies that are interested in investigating and taking action against Internet fraud that is reported.

Thank you for your colaboration,

Antifraud and Security Department

The web site the writer directs me to is inoperative!!!

Here's Daniel aka Toma writing again on March 25

Dear sir !
I wait your replay !

And again two days later...

Dear sir !
You are still interested in my offer ?
Please tell me !

And another plaintive request

!

Please give me an answer !

Wrap Up

At this stage I wrote to him in the persona of I C Fruit to advise him that we were no longer interested, as we had been advised that the transaction carried too much risk.

What I learned from the exercise.

Scammers make their transaction look legitimate

They can promise anything because they won't be delivering (He promised I C Fruit a US\$200 price reduction on the basis of pleading shortage of funds).

The Romanian authorities are not interested in curbing an industry which is probably the No 1 earner of foreign currency for their country

Scammer didn't hide his IP address, pointing directly to his country of origin.

An approach to Yahoo.com advising that one of their e-mail boxes was being used for criminal purposes was answered with a "canned" answer. They did nothing.

The message is loud and clear, folks. If you get caught in a scam like this you will get very little help from anyone outside New Zealand. I did not approach authorities in New Zealand because the criminals were beyond their reach.

Caveat Emptor

Let The Buyer Beware!

Other. Another scam from the same source. He thought the first was going to be a great little earner.

Several More scams ..See following pages.

trade me
Where Kiwis buy and sell online

Logout Help

25c gallery (Normally 95c) Until midnight Sunday

Home Browse Sell My Trade Me Community

Stores Latest Gallery Featured Hot Closing soon Consumer guides 8:12 am

Search
All Listings
[more options...](#)

Things I'm Selling
[Run an auction](#)
[Credit my account](#)
[Current listings](#)
[Completed listings](#)
[Weekly summary](#)
[My account](#)

Things I'm Buying
[Watchlist](#)
[Closed](#)
[Favourites](#)
[Customise...](#)
[Logout](#)

Canon IR400 COPIER w/PRINT & FAX - WARRANTY

No bids | Closes: Thu, 1 Apr

Starting bid: \$ 1300 Autobid ?

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[Add to watchlist](#) [View questions and comments](#) [Email to a friend](#)

Closes 5:37 am, Thu 1 Apr.
Auction Number: 10010164

About the seller	Payment / shipping
<p>gsauvre (new ⚠)</p> <p>No one has traded with gsauvre yet Member since March 2004</p> <p>Seller's other listings Read seller's feedback</p>	<p>Location: Australia, Other country</p> <p>Shipping: Details at: gsauvre@yahoo.com</p> <p>Payment: cash, cheque, bank deposit</p> <p>SafeTrader: Doesn't support SafeTrader learn more</p>

trade me motors
only \$19.95

- 3 free photos
- Free gallery
- Free re-lists
- No commission

And another. IP address 161.142.55.139 which is in Malaysia. Not quite Christchurch!

[Browse](#) > [Movies](#) > [DVD](#) > [Kids & family](#)

🔑 Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat DVD

No bids | No reserve | Closes: Mon, 29 Mar

Starting bid: \$ Autobid

1 hr. 22 min. Mike Myers stars in the title role of Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat, the film adaptation of the beloved literary classic. The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss was first published in 1957, and remains one of the top ten best-selling hardcover children's books of all time. The mischievous feline visitor in the striped stove-pipe hat makes his big screen debut with this live-action production, which will bring the off-kilter Dr. Seuss characters - as well as some new ones created especially for the film - to life on the big screen.

: Mike Myers, Spencer Breslin, Dakota Fanning, Alec Baldwin, Sean Hayes

Or Pick from the following New Titles:

- Cold Creek Manor,
- Mona Lisa Smiles,
- School Of Rock,
- The Missing,
- Brother Bear,
- Calendar Girls,
- Looney Tunes : Back In Action,
- Duplex

If you want to buy direct from me, send me details to - wiseman (at) muchomail (dot) com

Free shipping in NZ

[Add to watchlist](#) [View questions and comments](#) [Email to a friend](#)


Closes 3:37 am, Mon 29 Mar. This auction may auto-extend.




Auction Number: 10037921


About the seller	Payment / shipping
<p>wiseman2 (new)</p> <p>No one has traded with wiseman2 yet</p> <p>Member since March 2004</p> <p>Seller's other listings</p> <p>Read seller's feedback</p>	<p>Location: Christchurch City, Canterbury</p> <p>Shipping: Free shipping in NZ</p> <p>Payment: bank deposit</p> <p>SafeTrader: Doesn't support SafeTrader learn more</p>

Another - IP address 152.163.252.167 - It's AOL in USA, not Auckland for this camera.


please contact me in this mail:importal2003@hotmail.com

 Free shipping in NZ

 [Add to watchlist](#)  [View questions and comments](#)  [Email to a friend](#)

Closes 7:03 am, Thu 8 Apr. This auction may auto-extend. 

Auction Number: 10209166

About the seller	Payment / shipping
<p>importal2002 (new )</p> <p>No one has traded with importal2002 yet Member since April 2004</p> <hr/> <p>Seller's other listings Read seller's feedback</p>	<p>Location: Auckland City, Auckland</p> <p>Shipping: ups air expres, Free shipping in NZ</p> <p>Payment: bank deposit</p> <p>SafeTrader: Doesn't support SafeTrader learn more</p>

You get the idea.

They're all over the place.

Tips, Tricks and Techniques

Some thoughts on these.

The Computer.

I run a Dick Smith "Samurai" brand computer with an AMD 1800 MHz processor (said to be roughly equivalent to an Intel 2200 MHz processor), with 512 Megabytes of RAM memory and a 60 Gigabyte hard drive. The computer runs Microsoft XP Home operating system. This is a quite modern and powerful computer for most everyday tasks.

I also run a Compaq 1245 Presario Laptop with an Intel 333 MHz processor and 160 Megabytes of RAM memory, and a 4 Gigabyte hard drive. It runs with Windows 98 SE. This computer is 4 years old and rather puny compared to the Samurai, but is quite adequate for web surfing and trading on Trademe.

Both computers log on via dial up to the Internet.

You obviously have a computer, and this is your window to the world through the Internet.

Browsing.

Most people use Microsoft Internet Explorer as their web browser. Perfectly adequate, and because it is the industry standard most web sites will perform properly. I don't like it because it does not have Tabs, or a Pop Up Blocker. I prefer using Slimbrowser from Flashpeak (from flashpeak.com). This is an Internet Explorer clone on steroids. It comes complete with tabs (little tabs at the top of the active window, allowing me to easily click back and forth between several open windows), and a built in Pop Up Blocker. The interface is multi language if English is not your native tongue (the interface even includes Romanian). There are a host of other features as well, and it's well worth the price of \$0.00. Another feature I use all the time is the password protected log ins. One password unlocks all my sites, Bank, Trademe, several free e-mail accounts etc. I would never be able to go back to IE after using Slimbrowser.

E-mail

The most prevalent e-mail client is Outlook Express. Comes bundled with Microsoft operating systems and is perfectly adequate. Also comes with continuing security headaches. Therefore I prefer a non standard e-mail client from China. I use Foxmail from www.Foxmail.com.cn. Because it is not the Microsoft offering I don't appear to have problems with viruses finding the address book, and all those associated headaches. Has a very pretty customizable background and lots of features. Unfortunately the help file is written in rather fractured English. Good buying for the price of \$0.00

For pre screening of e-mails in my ISP mailboxes I use Eprompter (eprompter.com). This runs all the time I'm on the web and gives a sound warning when new mail arrives. It won't download attachments or HTML, so is safe from viruses from these sources. I kill the spam at this point, then download the remaining messages from my ISP's (I use two) to Foxmail. I hear lots of people on the message boards complaining of all the e-mails with virus attachments that are arriving. Because these can't get to me through Eprompter I don't have nearly the problems I hear others have.

Security

My systems run a firewall (Zone Alarm from zonealarm.com) and a virus checker (AVG from grisoft.com) Both are free programs. There are a number of good virus checkers available, but the most important thing is to keep the definition file up to date. I check daily for updates as the virus writers (scum of the earth) are constantly writing new viruses. I can't stress strongly enough that all computers attached to the Internet need a firewall and a virus checker. Many people know the value of a virus checker (AVG can be set up to check for updates regularly as well) but don't realize the value of a good firewall. Every time an unprotected computer is connected to the Internet it sits there with over 64,000 open ports just waiting for a passing dork to break in. If you wouldn't go out without shutting and locking your home then the same goes for your computer. Get a firewall in place! The Windows firewall in Windows XP does half the job, but will not stop unauthorized **outward** traffic. You would be amazed how many innocent looking programs want to contact "home" without your knowledge. Stop them.

I also run a small program called Maxcrypt. I use this to encrypt any sensitive files so they can't be read. This is set up to encrypt all the selected files when I turn the computer off (I'm forgetful). Very handy to know all my secrets are safe! For a brief overview go to <http://www.techtv.com/callforhelp/freefile/story/0,24330,3416075,00.html> . There is also a download link here. It can even be set to encrypt your favourites, pictures, anything.

When I turn my computer off I also like to clean out the traces of my surfing, particularly the cookies that accumulate. For this I use ilsystemwiper. See. <http://iisoftware.net/> to download this freeware.

To ensure I don't pick up spyware (called by several names such as malware) I scan my system with Spybot - Search and Destroy (donationware) from security.kolla.de/ . Be careful, there are several sites offering bogus versions. I also scan with Adaware from <http://www.lavasoftusa.com/> . This is another great freeware program. Usually scan about once a month. Both of these programs offer time to time updates of their databases of offending programs.

I have my Windows XP Home set up to check for updates from Microsoft. There are so many holes in MS operating systems that one needs to constantly keep the system updated. You know the old joke. Q. What is an update. A. When Microsoft takes out one lot of bugs and puts in a new lot.

Digital Images

For quick picture preparation of digital images for Trademe I use Irfanview. This is one of the very best free digital manipulation programs, obtainable from the authors web site www.irfanview.com.

Here are several tricks using Irfanview that I hear people asking for.

1. **Trimming.** Open the picture in Irfanview [file/open ,select file/picture]. Put the cursor in one corner of the area to select, hold down the left mouse button and go to the diagonally opposite corner. A box is drawn. Click Edit/Crop Selection (or Control/Y) will crop the selection.
2. **Picture In Picture** (useful for including production stamps on the bottom of china etc). Open The picture to supply the insert picture. Select the portion to insert (as in 1 above). Click Edit/Copy and copy to the clipboard. Open the picture to have the insert placed, select the area to place the insert (as above) then click Edit/Paste (or Control/V). Done. Note. If you need to edit the insertion, it must be done immediately after placing. Click Edit/Undo (or Control/Z) to remove, then redo.
3. **Text on Picture.** I hear people going ape over others “borrowing” their pictures without asking. Put your copyright on the pictures as follows. Select where you want the copyright notice to appear (as above). Click Edit/Insert Text (or Control/T). Ensure that Text is Transparent is ticked. Click Choose Font. I use Times New Roman, Bold, size 16, silver colour or red, Western script. You may need to experiment to get the look you want. Click OK. In the Text Box type your copyright notice “(c) Foggyone 2004” for example, without the quotes. Click Ok and it’s done. Note. See editing in 2. Above.
4. **Saving pictures that are fast to upload, and are within the criteria set by Trademe is easy.** First of all, ensure that the picture is resized to no larger than 640 x 480 (or 480 x 640). To do this click Image/Resize/resample (or Control/R). Click Set New Size radio button. Type in 640 in the left hand box if your picture is in landscape orientation, or 640 in the right hand box if it’s in portrait. Click OK. Your picture is now resized. Click File/Save As (or S) and the Save As dialogue box pops up. Choose the folder to save in using the Save In selection.. Give your file a name in the File Name box. Ensure that the file will be saved as a Jpeg using the Save as Type Box. Now, click the Options button and using the slider select 65. Click OK, click Save, and you’re done. Note. The options setting stays the same, so no need to set it for every photo, but remember to reset it if you want to save a photo without crunching it (with a possible loss of some quality). This method will reduce a photo of say 990 kb to around 36 kb (typically) is about 5/10 seconds with a little practice.

5. Having trouble selecting one picture from many in a file. No trouble. Just open one picture in the file, then click File/Thumbnails (or T) All the photos in the file are loaded as thumbnails in a panel on the right side of the screen. Use the scroll bars, double click the photo you need and it's loaded ready for editing.

My camera is a Fuji Finepix S304 with a 64Mb card and rechargeable batteries. Digital cameras eat batteries, and I would advise all buyers to purchase a set of good batteries (or two) with a charger. The camera I use is a 3 megapixel model, but I run it on 2 megapixels for most pics. The camera has been superseded by a newer model at (grits teeth) half the price.

For scanning I run an HP PSC 750 combo printer scanner copier. This scans very nicely right into my Irfanview program. Print quality is good, but like all inkjet printers can get a little costly.

IP Addresses

Need to find out where an e-mail has come from (handy to figure out if a trader is where they claim to be, nothing worse than sending money to someone in Kaitaia only to find they are in Romania!) Every time an e-mail is sent it includes the address of the computer on the Internet (unless this is spoofed. I find that almost no-one goes to the trouble of hiding this information in day to day scams. No doubt spies would, but run of the mill scammers are too silly, and too greedy to take the time and trouble)

Lets say you have received an e-mail you want to check. The first thing to do is to open the e-mail in your e-mail client (probably Outlook Express). Click File/Properties/Details. You are presented with an almost incomprehensible script. If you read from the bottom up you will note it says received from (whoever) then 4 numbers enclosed in [square] brackets. This is the information you need. Copy it (put cursor at one end, hold down your left mouse button, draw the cursor along to the other end and release the mouse button) Click Control/C is the keyboard shortcut. To see an e-mail header go to page 25. IP address is highlighted red.

Open your IP checker (I use Lokbox Lookup from <http://www.lokbox.net/download.asp>). Click Whois IP address tab and paste the IP address into the box (Click Control/V is the keyboard shortcut). Make sure you are connected to the Internet. Click Search. There are 3 registries worldwide. If you don't get a hit on the first (American) click the drop down arrow and select the next. Search again (and a third time if necessary). There is the information, including, usually, an e-mail address of whoever you need to complain to in the case of abuse. Great for those little sh*ts that send out abusive or threatening emails, thinking they are hidden from the world.

To download Lokbox Lookup go to <http://www.lokbox.net/download.asp> .

Lokbox does lots more but I will let you explore this for yourself. Shareware 30 day trial. Buy for US\$9.99

This Ebook

Produced using Cute PDF Printer. This changes documents into the PDF format. Want it?
[Http://www.cutepdf.com/download/CuteWriter.exe](http://www.cutepdf.com/download/CuteWriter.exe) . You may need the PDF converter from the same site.

Produced using Lotus Wordpro word processor. I like how it handles tables.

Ebay

To easily search Ebay listings I use

<http://vivisimo.com/search?v:sources=eBay&v:project=eBay&form=advanced-eBay&v:frame=form> . I also use the built in search engine, but it is not as good as the above.

Trademe

The TM search engine is, unfortunately, just a toy. Compared to the overseas sites the results one can obtain are not very informative. You can get more info by using the advanced button, which allows you to also search on expired listings.

Helpful Web sites

Trademe Help Files <http://trademe.co.nz/structure/helpdocs/>

Safetrader <http://trademe.co.nz/structure/helpdocs/> Click on Safetrader button, then Help.

NZ Postal rates http://www.nzpost.com/nzpost/control/letters/letters_sendnz

Another NZ auction site (without traffic) <http://oneway.co.nz/sellingtips.php>

Techtv <http://www.techtv.com/techtv/index.html/> (includes Tech Live, Call for help, Screen Savers

Trusted Free Programs <http://www.techtv.com/callforhelp/freefile/archive/>

Safetrader Calculator http://www.safetrader.co.nz/fee_calc.htm

DNS and IP lookup on the web <Http://www.canufly.net/~georgegg/dns/>

Search Ebay

<http://vivisimo.com/search?v:sources=eBay&v:project=eBay&form=advanced-eBay&v:frame=form>

Windows process library <Http://www.liutilities.com/products/wintaskspro/processlibrary/>

What email headers mean <Http://vww.spamcop.com/>

Help reveal e-mail headers in various clients http://vww.spamcop.com/help_with_headers/

Another whois search tool <Http://www.arin.net/whois/>

Online tracking lessons (read it all)

Http://www.slais.ubc.ca/courses/libr500/fall1999/www_presentations/g_coleman/default.htm

On line translator <Http://dictionary.reference.com/translate/text.html>

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Search engines Google.com No 1

[Http://www.google.co.nz/options/index.html](http://www.google.co.nz/options/index.html) Extra Google services

[Http://groups.google.com/groups](http://groups.google.com/groups) to search newsgroups. Try this search “sam morgan trademe fraud”

[Http://s.teoma.com/](http://s.teoma.com/)

[Http://www.alltheweb.com/](http://www.alltheweb.com/)

About Me

Born in New Plymouth in 1946 (makes me a baby boomer) and educated in Taranaki and the Wairarapa. Worked in the timber industry, Banking and real estate.

I have owned PC's for many years (even before PCs were invented). My first computer was a Dick Smith System 80, a knock off copy of the Tandy TRS 80. It came with 16 kilobytes of Ram, half of which was dedicated to system files.

My next computer was an Acer 500+ with 2 x 5.25 inch floppy drives and 640 kb of ram. I installed a 32meg hard card (hard disk) which cost me \$900!!!! How times and prices have changed.

I am the type of person who likes to look in the dark corners, and under rocks to see what is there. This is probably why I am interested in scambusting. Scams offend my sense of right, but it is more the intellectual challenge that gives me a charge.

Shameless Plug

I sell real estate in Lower Hutt. If you know of anyone who is thinking of selling a house in this area, please have them contact me on (027) 4485-059.

Your Input.

If you have any thoughts on information I should include in a future revision of this ebook, please e-mail me at korau@bigfoot.com or korau@hotpop.com.

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April 2004

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