ORDER RED FLAGS

A distributor was left liable for paying for 10,000 flash drives after a scammer posed as a buyer for a major university and got the promo firm to fulfill the order. Of course, they never paid. Here are some red flags that you can look for in a potential order to avoid a similar scam.

SENDER'S NAME IS ON A PUBLIC SITE

If a name can be found on LinkedIn or an organization's website, then it can be used by scammers to try to add legitimacy to their scam.

REQUEST IS FOR BLANK GOODS

Con artists often request blank goods because they're easy to resell.

ORDER IS FOR FLASH DRIVES OR T-SHIRTS

These are two commonly requested items by scammers.

EMAIL ADDRESS LOOKS WRONG

Con artists use email addresses that are doctored to closely resemble a genuine email address, like using @ohio-edu.org at the end when the correct email address ends in @ohio.edu.

ORDER CAME TOO EASILY

It's generally not easy to become a vendor for a major company or university, so if one contacts you out of the blue, be sure to investigate.

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