

What's the scam?

A hacker pretending to be a friend sends you a WhatsApp, asking you to forward a one-time password (OTP) that was sent to you by SMS by mistake. If you forward that OTP, you will be logged out of your WhatsApp account and **any personal information on WhatsApp** - including contacts, photographs and chats - will become accessible to the hacker.

What happens next?

After getting unauthorised access to your WhatsApp account, you are logged out of your account and fraudsters can use your WhatsApp to ask for money - as well as sending offensive messages. The hacker can use your contact database to proliferate the scam further.

What should you do?

Don't forward the OTP to the hacker! Install two-step verification on your WhatsApp account - and more generally on your smartphone. With the amount of data on smartphones, it is critical to remain vigilant. All kinds of sensitive information can be leaked through your device - so being security-conscious is more important than ever. Technology can be a two-edged sword, allowing criminals to take advantage of vulnerabilities that many of us are unaware of - and making us victims of malicious ransomware attacks.

In short:

WhatsApp OTP scam

- Hackers are using OTPs to hack into WhatsApp accounts.
- Don't respond to requests to forward OTPs to 'friends'.
- Enable two-step verification on your smartphone - in Settings - to defeat these scams.