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Crypto ATMS

Can cause an irreversible financial loss

Scammers frequently target people by manipulating them to deposit cash at these crypto atm kiosks for fake investments, romance scams, or by impersonating government agencies. Cryptocurrency transfers cannot be traced or canceled.

What does the **data** say?

Data from the Federal Trade Commission shows consumers reporting over **$110 million in losses to scams involving Bitcoin ATM machines in 2023, a tenfold increase since 2020.**

What are Crypto/ Bitcoin ATMs ?

A Bitcoin ATM (also known by a number of other names, including Crypto ATM) is an electronic kiosk designed to facilitate buying cryptocurrencies using a credit card or debit card. These machines look like traditional ATMs and are located in all the same kinds of places: gas stations, convenience stores, malls, and other high-traffic areas.

How to Protect Yourself

- Slow down. Scammers want you to rush out to the nearest Bitcoin ATM, put in your money, and send crypto to them. Pause, take a minute first. If you have been directed by someone to make a payment using a Bitcoin ATM, it is very likely that this is a scam.
- Never click on links or answer unexpected calls, messages, or computer pop-ups. Don't respond to the person who contacted you. Delete the message and report it as junk to your carrier.
- Never withdraw cash in response to an unexpected call or message. Only scammers will tell you to do that.
- Don't believe anyone who says you need to use a Bitcoin ATM to protect your money, or to fix a problem, or to get in on a great investment. Real businesses and government agencies will never do that – and anyone who asks is a scammer.

Because ownership of virtual wallets and addresses is anonymous, a crypto ATM operator cannot feasibly prevent its machines from being used for money transmission. However, some states are amending their money transmission laws to make them applicable to crypto ATM operators. Consumers may wish to contact their state's banking regulator for more information about what protections exist in their jurisdiction.

How do Crypto ATMs work?

You can deposit money into the ATM and the ATM charges a fee and transfers the money into cryptocurrency and puts it into an electronic wallet. You provide the address of the wallet.

How do these scams start?

The scams start through chats, social media, emails, texts, pop ups, and phone calls from strangers. The lies told by scammers vary, but they create some urgent justification for consumers to take cash out of their bank accounts and put it into a Bitcoin ATM. Often, the scammers fabricate an investment that promises great returns with limited risk. When consumers put money into a Bitcoin ATM, the ATM converts the money to cryptocurrency. The consumer types in the scammer's electronic wallet address, or the consumer is given a QR code to scan which points to the scammer's electronic wallet address. The Bitcoin ATM then transfers the crypto to the scammer's electronic wallet. Once in their control the scammers quickly move the crypto making it very difficult to trace and recover.