

## Urban Myths, Hoaxes and Internet Scams

Beware of them all. Some are so easy to believe, others you want to believe. Ever since the dawn of time unscrupulous pranksters have circulated these around. First by word of mouth, then by paper, next came the fax and finally the internet.

There are the chain letters that **MUST** be forwarded in order for you to receive your “good luck”. There are also the hoaxes that have you go out and delete a file from your computer that looks like a teddy bear. There are the scare chains that ask you to write your congressman about the proposed 5 cent tax (bill 602P) on all e-mails. But the most malicious of these are the internet scams. With today’s evolving technology and the proliferation of internet banking and online accounts a single well throughout scam can net the creator thousands if not millions of dollars.

If you are an ebayer there are 2 scams you need to be especially aware of. Both will come in the form of an e-mail with either of these subjects: **Ebay Account Restricted** or **Notification of PayPal Limited Account Access**. Both look very official and can deceive most people. If you receive either, **DO NOT REPLY** or enter your account information. This will give the hacker your account info which he can then use to empty your PayPal account or hijack your eBay account.

There are countless other scams out there making the rounds. The next time you get ANY suspicious e-mail check it out at the following web site first: <http://hoaxbusters.ciac.org>. Or you may want to check out the site just to see how many of these you’ve already received. You can also go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and just type in the subject line of the e-mail and see if it turns up a warning about a hoax. It’s hard to believe that some folks would be so gullible, isn’t it?