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Happy Birthday To Me ISSUE.

Well, I hate to admit it, but I recently fell for a SCAM by a domain registrar in a third world country - China! This is How:
Dear CEO,

We are the department of registration service in China. we have something need to confirm with you. We formally received an application on September 8th, 2009, One company which self-styled " MARS KIKAI Ltd" are applying to register "digitaltimes" as brand name and domain names as below:

digitaltimes.asia
digitaltimes.com.hk
digitaltimes.com.tw
digitaltimes.hk
digitaltimes.in
digitaltimes.net.cn
digitaltimes.org.cn
digitaltimes.tw

After our initial checking, we found that the brand name and these domain names being applied are the same as your company's, so we need to get the confirmation from your company. If the aforesaid company is your business partner or your subsidiary company, please DO NOT reply us, we will approve the application automatically. If you don't have any relationship with this company, please contact us within 10 workdays. If out of the deadline, we will approve the application submitted by "MARS KIKAI Ltd" unconditionally.

Best Regards,



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*Our Digital Egos



De-friending or being De-friended on FaceBook *bruises* Digital Ego's, per CNN News ... oh my! Being deserted by your Twitter followers can do the same kind of psychological damage. WHY? you think-- after all, *it happens online, with people you don't even know* -- but recent research shows that our "digital egos" can bruise as easily as in person. In fact, rejection online may have the potential to sting even more.

In the case of Twitter, a third-party service this year launched **Qwitter**, which allows Twitter users to determine who's stopped following them and which tweet may have turned them off.

"If I come on [Facebook] tomorrow and see I have 425 friends instead of 426, I'm not going to go through my list and see who did it and be upset with them" stated a person in CNN's study.

Purdue University social psychologist Kip Williams said: "People tend to think that these relationships are trivial and not very deep, but this is what we're moving towards, having a lot of our communications play out over the Internet." "That's the way it's becoming; this is how we interpret our worth. People care how many [online] friends they have."

Is that why there is a service called **USocial** that makes it possible to BUY friends for **Facebook**?! They will deliver 5,000 "friends" for 7.6 cents each... a mere **\$654.30**.



Domain Name SCAM, Continued

Mr. Zheng continued with: "The domain names registration is open in the world, anyone has the right to apply any available domain name. we do not have any right to reject their application. So our duty and incumbency is informing you about this issue as you are the owner of the name "digitaltimes", you have the priority to register relevant domain names extension."

After checking to see if they were legitimate, I asked Mr. Zhang to fax me a FEE SCHEDULE. After looking at it, and noticing a fee for something called INTERNET BRAND, I enquired: "It isn't clear to me what service your company *does* for the 150 USD x 3 yrs for an INTERNET BRAND? That seems a great deal of money to spend on something so ubiquitous."

and...."From what I can tell, all of the fees are x3 as the minimum registration is 3 years.... is this correct? Please advise, and Thank You!"
Sincerely /Saundra Kinnaird / Founder, DigitalTimes

Mr. Zheng skirted the issue, as he said "we are the domains registration company authorized by chinese govenment, if you are not very trust in us,we can provied you the credentials if need," "Secondly,according to the rule of our company, the minimum registration term is 3 years,but you do not need to choose all of them,you can choose those which you think are very important your company."

Once again I asked Mr. Zheng the Question: It isn't clear to me what your company *does* for \$150 x 3 yrs for the INTERNET BRAND?!

Mr. Zheng replied: "Since this is urgent now, if you want to registrate those domains,pls fill out the form and return it back soon, if you do not want to protect them,pls also tell us as soon as possible,so we can do next step, many thanks for your cooperation."

I said, Dear Mr. Zheng,
I understand completely the purpose of registering domain names and will need to decide which, if any, to register. What has not been explained is what is meant by DIGITALTIMES 150USD. That is not a domain name.
Is it a service???? What service is it?

Bottom Line? Altho' he never answered the question pertaining to INTERNET BRAND, **I decided to register digitaltimes.asia and wired their bank the \$\$.** As soon as I did, all of my emails were refused by their server. Did they register the domain? **NO.** Do I have any recourse? **NO.** A couple of weeks later I received a similar approach from another registrar in China:

Dear Manager:

We are a Domain Name registration service company, which is a professional Internet Domain Name Registration and dispute resolution organization in China. On November.9th,2009, We received HUIMING Investment company's application that they are registering the name "digitaltimes" as their Internet Trademark and "digitaltimes.cn", "digitaltimes.com.cn", "digitaltimes.asia" domain names etc., It is China and ASIA domain names. But after auditing we found the brand name been used by your company. As the domain name registrar in China, it is our duty to notice you, so I am sending you this Email to check. According to the principle in China, your company is the owner of the trademark, In our auditing time we can keep the domain names safe for you firstly, but our audit period is limited, if you object the third party application these domain names and need to protect the brand in china and Asia by yourself, please let the responsible officer contact us as soon as possible. Thank you!

Looking forward to your reply.
Kind regards
Angela

Consider Yourself WARNED!!!

-editor