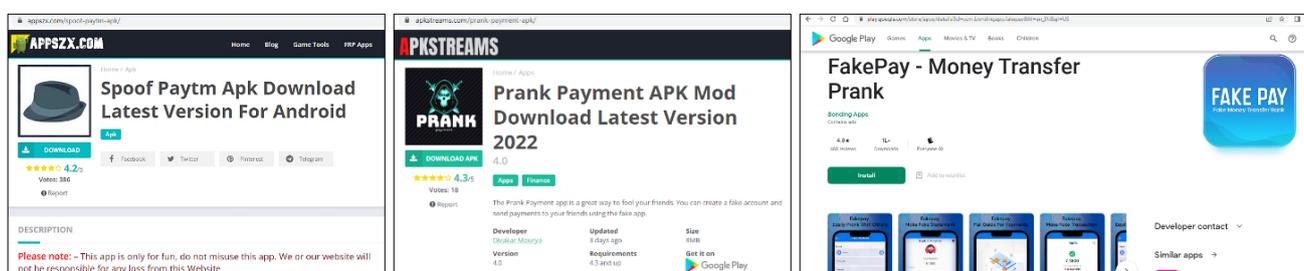


Money Transfer Prank

With the advancement of digital technology, the payment system has seen significant change in the mode of financial transaction. Online payment gateways like Google Pay, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, Paytm, are the topmost platforms for this purpose. While the pandemic has fuelled digital transactions in India, it has also opened various doors for the scamsters to loot the innocuous first-time users of the technology.

FakePay, Spoof Paytm Apk, Prank Payment Apk*** (and many more) are the easily available android based applications used to prank people by **creating fake payment receipts**. The App developer companies put the same disclaimer in their sites too.



Spoof refers to fake or parody of anything. Spoof Paytm Apk and other such apps create fake payment receipts which look so similar to the original that none can differentiate between both. Though these applications were developed only for entertainment purposes but few fraudsters started using them unlawfully for cheating shop-owners by showing fake payment receipts.

All one has to do is feed in the merchant's name, his mobile number and the amount that has to be paid. The app generates a fake successful payment notification that appears so genuine, even though no such transaction has taken place. It's just a fake notification, and no funds are transferred to the account of shopkeepers. The design of the apps are very similar to the original UPI apps.

Moreover, the transaction ID and date-time are also customizable. Criminals can set these factors as they wanted to.

Fraudsters show the merchant the screen, tell them that the payment has been made and will appear in their account in some time, and flee. The shopkeepers believe that the customer has paid the money.

*** An APK (Android Package Kit) is the file format for applications used on the Android operating system. An APK file includes all of the software program's code and assets. Developers who create applications for use on Android devices must compile their application into the APK format prior to uploading to Google Play, the official marketplace for Android applications.

The protection mechanism

- The simplest method is that you check whether the payment has been transferred to your account before letting the person go. Wait for the message from the bank that the payment has been made.
- Generally, when such transactions take place, the merchants get an SMS from UPI App. Check that patiently.
- Apart from this, it is better to buy and use a SoundBox – an audio assisted smart device, which gives instant audio confirmations whenever a payment is made through UPI. It is a small portable speaker for your daily payment alerts which comes with a SIM based connectivity.

These methods should be used by people to ensure they are not cheated.

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