

Annex C – Illustrations of scam activities (and why a proactive approach to preventing scams and malicious cyber activities is required)

Illustration 1 – Loan Scams

Scam websites are deceptive, and these websites are broadcasted at scale. For instance, loan scam syndicates create numerous websites that appear to offer legitimate loans, loan comparison services, or financial consultancy services. They leverage online advertising services to increase traffic to their websites. Scammers would use the contact information, submitted by the victims via the websites, to initiate the loan scam.

Scammers actively circumvent measures by the Government to block them. Even as the Police initiate blocking of these websites reported by loan scam victims, they easily create new websites with different internet domains to circumvent the blocking and continue perpetuating their scam.

The Bill will allow Government Directions to be issued to block access to these websites upon detection of suspicious scam indicators and before victims fall prey.

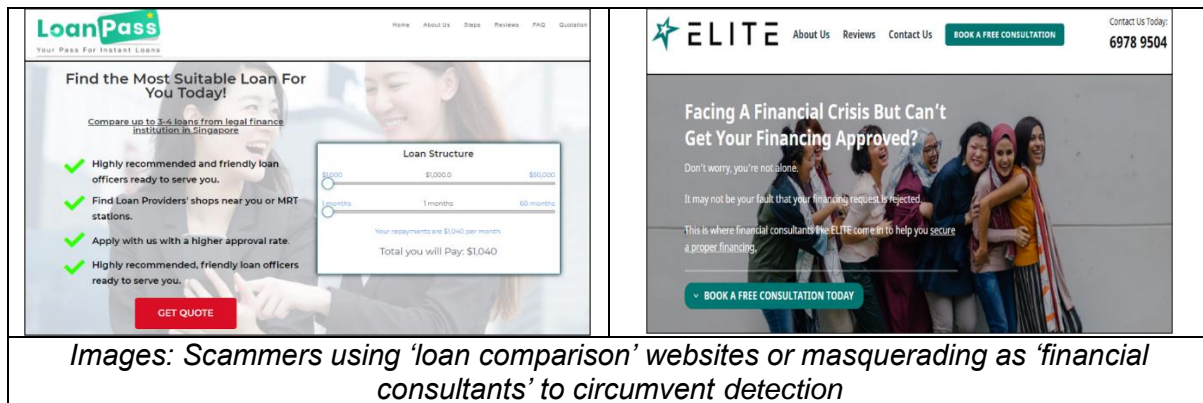


Illustration 2 – Phishing Scams

Scammers can launch scam campaigns quickly. For instance, before the launch of a scam campaign, phishing scam syndicates are known to register multiple website domains which are similar to the brand that they intend to spoof. They are observed to only upload the phishing webpage content minutes prior to launching their scam campaign. In the illustration below, the scam syndicate uploaded the scam phishing site onto the domain at 9.21am, only minutes before they started mass-broadcasting the phishing site to potential victims.

The victims received an SMS stating that they are eligible to receive the Singapore commemorative dollar notes and directing them to the link 'dbs-oea.com'. The website was a phishing website impersonating DBS, where victims were asked to provide their login details to their DBS account and One Time Password (OTP). Within the same day, the scammers successfully cheated 20 Singaporean victims using this single website.

The Bill will allow Government Directions to be issued to block access to scam websites if there are reasons to believe that the websites are preparatory to a scam campaign, before the scam campaign is launched and potential victims visit these scam websites.

