

Bitcoin ATM scams on the Rise



www.ctpro.io

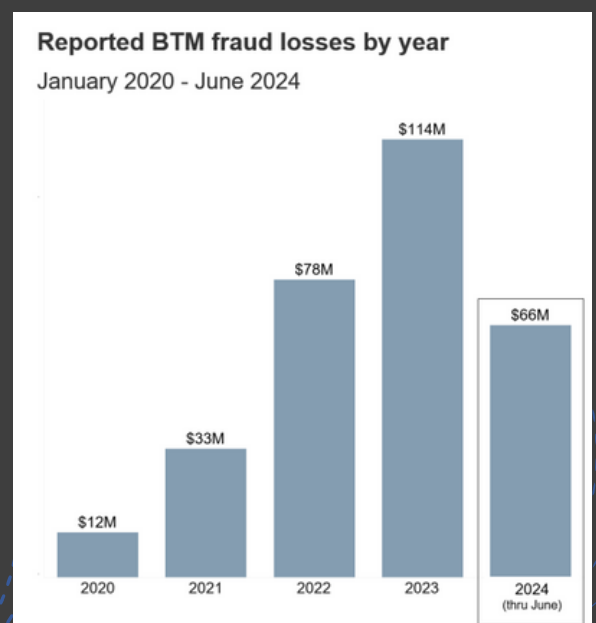
Current impact of Bitcoin Scams

The median loss from a Bitcoin ATM scam in the first half of 2024 was \$10K, the FTC reported.

FTC Consumer Sentinel Network data show that fraud losses at ATMs are skyrocketing, increasing nearly tenfold from 2020 to 2023, and topping \$65 million in just the first half of 2024. Since the vast majority of frauds are not reported, this likely reflects only a fraction of the actual harm.

The FTC deems Bitcoin ATMs “A payment portal for scammers” and implores people to be wary of any unknown messages referring to finances.

Bitcoin ATMs have been popping up at convenience stores, gas stations, and other high-traffic areas for years. For some, they're a convenient way to buy or send crypto, but for scammers they've become an easy way to steal.



Identifying the Scam

Scammers are becoming more believable over time. Scammers have been utilizing Bitcoin ATMs as they look like traditional ATMs and are becoming more and more common in high traffic areas, such as convenient stores and gas stations.

Scams using Bitcoin ATMs often start with a call or message about suspicious activity or unauthorized charges. Sometimes, they use fake security alerts from companies like Microsoft or Apple. These alerts are designed to be alarming. The scam escalates quickly, with claims that your money is at risk, or your information is linked to crimes. Scammers may even involve a fake government agent, claiming to be from the FTC, to increase the urgency.

Scammers claim that depositing cash into these machines will protect your money or fix the fake problem they've concocted. They direct you to go to your bank to take out cash. Next, they send you to a nearby Bitcoin ATM location, often a specific one, to deposit the cash. They text you a QR code to scan at the machine, and once you do, the cash you deposit goes right into the scammer's wallet.

It is important to never click on links or respond directly to unexpected calls, messages, or computer pop-ups. Remember to slow down and think rationally, scammers want you to be emotional and make quick decisions without any forethought. Never believe anyone who says you must use a Bitcoin ATM, buy gift cards, or move money around to fix a problem. This person is a scammer.



Who is most targeted and at Risk?

In the first half of the year, people 60 and over were three times more likely than younger adults to report a loss using a Bitcoin ATM. In fact, more than two of every three dollars reported lost to fraud using these machines was lost by an older adult.

Although, being in a younger demographic doesn't exempt you from the possibility of scam.

Grant Cardone, CEO and fund manager of Cardone Capital and Cardone Training Technologies, told FOX Business that those who are most at risk of falling victim to this scam are "easily moved by fear of loss or hope of gain."

In order to protect yourself from the threat of scammers it's imperative to be aware of common scams used to steal your finances in forms of cryptocurrency.



Investigating a Scam

Crypto Track Pro, our advanced blockchain analytical engine monitors millions of blockchain transactions daily. We have partnered with industry leading organizations to obtain scam reporting data. Our law enforcement partners also report scam addresses which has led to enhanced deconfliction opportunities. With the constant development in the world of technology, it is important to have access to powerful tools to combat the evolving techniques of scammers. If you need assistance working a Bitcoin scam, sign up now for a free 14-day demo for CT Pro.

<https://analytics.ctpro.io/>

