

## WHAT IS PIG BUTCHERING

**Pig butchering** is a crypto scam that uses catfishing to gain the victim's trust and convince them to join a financial investment scheme.

**DON'T END UP ON THE  
BUTCHERING BLOCK!**

## INTRODUCTION

The pig butchering scam is a long-term fraud that combines investment schemes, romance scams, and cryptocurrency fraud. This scam originated in Southeast Asia, and the name originates from the Chinese phrase "Shāz Hū Pán," meaning pig butchering. The analogy comes from gaining trust in the victim -- fattening up the pig -- then stealing cryptocurrency or money -- the butchering.

## HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?

1. The **scammer initiates contact** with the potential victim through social media, dating apps, or text messages. It may also start as a text from a wrong number or a direct message on social media.
2. The scammer then **gains the trust of the victim** over time, and eventually encourages the victim to invest in cryptocurrency trading.
3. The scammer then **tells the victim to download an app** or visit a website to make cryptocurrency trades. Sometimes, they offer to trade alongside the victim. However, this platform is controlled by scammers.
4. The **victim is encouraged to add more money** to the account. However, if the victim wants to withdraw funds, the account says the victim needs to pay fees or taxes to access it. After the victim realizes the platform is fake, **the transactions disappear on the blockchain, never to be seen again.**

**Visit the FBI's [ic3.gov](https://www.ic3.gov) site to file a  
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