Scammers commonly use the names of well-known and reputable computer companies, online retailers, money transfer services and virus protection software companies to try and trick their victims. These business imposter and computer support scams often claim to be with companies like Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Norton, McAfee, PayPal and eBay, just to name a few. It is important to remember that computer scams can occur on any device that can access the internet including a smartphone and tablet. The following are some red flags to look out for to help debunk some of the most reported computer-related scams:

- You receive an unsolicited contact over the phone, via email or text claiming to be from one of these companies
- They request remote access to your computer to “help” you solve a problem
- An email invoice alerts you that you are past due on a subscription that you never signed up for in the first place
- A pop-up window appears on your screen asking you to call a number for support services
- You receive a request to “verify” personal, financial or account information
- The attempted contact is unprofessional, often with typos, from a non-business-related email service and/or the call center is extremely noisy in the background

If you recognize any of these red flags from a “computer company” or other online source, disconnect immediately. Shut down your computer or other device if necessary. Contact AARP ElderWatch if you have questions.

800-222-4444
Denver Metro Area
303-222-4444
www.aarpelderwatch.org