

The Maniac

I was looking for a developer to help update an iOS App that I had originally created. I was skeptical about some of the foreign developers because I had communication issues in the past that resulted in a subpar software update. So, to hopefully avoid this and to work with someone that had a good understanding of English, I narrowed my search and ended up choosing a Canadian, Tony Stewart. He had some good reviews on the Upwork contracting site.

Tony was charging \$60/hr, which was more than other developers but he said he could finish the project in well under 40 hours (\$2000 budget). We started working and he created the very first part of the project, a simple task, but billed me a lot of hours (20 hours). I was a bit worried about this since the project had just started, but opted to allow him to bill the 20 hours.

Two days later, I received this email from Upwork:

Indy (Upwork Help Center)
Feb 16, 3:24 AM EST

Dear James,

I'm writing about your freelancer, Tony Stewart, with whom you've been working on the contract "iPhone App Re-Creations". During a routine review, we found evidence linking your freelancer to a group previously removed from the platform for misrepresentation and non-delivery of work. As a precautionary measure to protect you and the rest of the Upwork community, we have closed the freelancer's account and as a result all contracts have been ended. Unfortunately, you will not be able to continue working with them on Upwork, and any pending payments have been returned to you. Please consider changing any passwords or accesses shared with this freelancer.

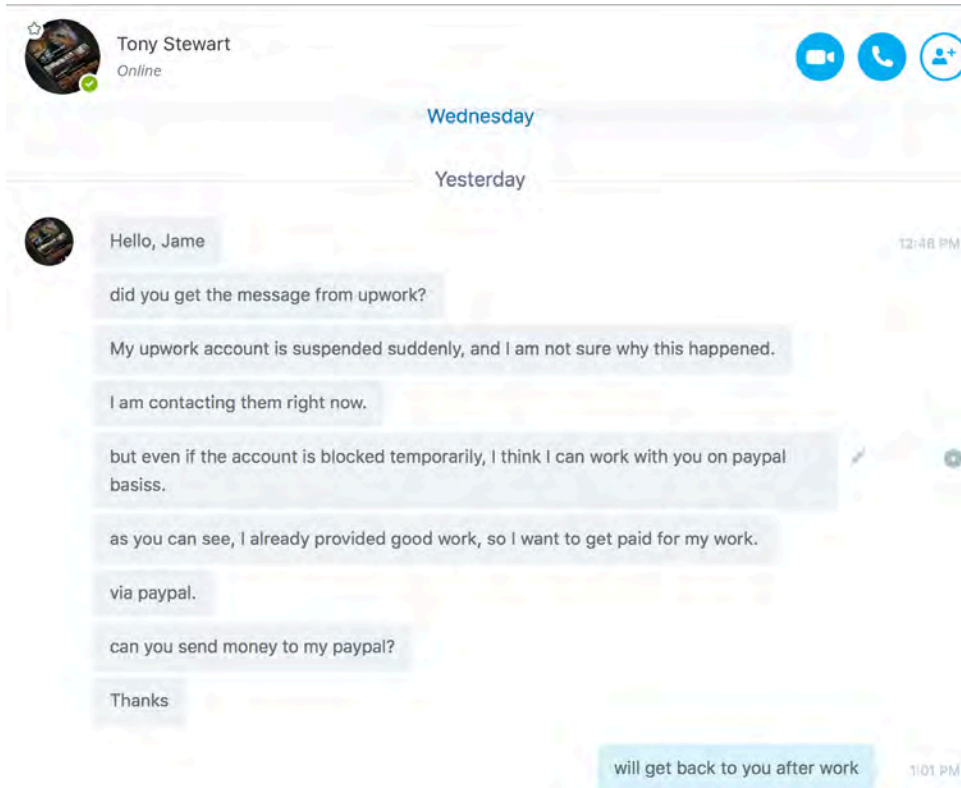
I realize this is very unexpected and apologize for the disruption to your business. To ensure your project is finished with as little interruption as possible, we would like to help you find a qualified replacement. Please reply to this email and we will gladly submit your information to our Talent Services team who will be able to assist you with this.

We take your safety and security very seriously and appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Best regards,
Indy
Upwork Trust and Safety Team

This email is a service from Upwork Help Center. Delivered by [Zendesk](#)

I replied that I may be naïve but Tony seemed to be trying to work toward the project. Then again, he did bill a lot of hours for a very easy part of the project. Tony must have been alerted by Upwork as well...he started sending me a bunch of messages:



This worried me. Why is this guy all of a sudden bombarding me and why does he immediately want money from PayPal. So, now I think this guy is possibly a scammer but he also knows how to write software. I had noticed that a hosting site he used was from Russia, but this may be a coincidence because you can pay for a host site from anywhere. I threw him a bone in case he actually wanted to actually finish the project:

Subject: Upwork Contract
From: James [REDACTED]
To: Tony Stewart <tony.stewart122@outlook.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=UTF-8

Tony:

I received an email from Upwork that they "found evidence linking your freelancer to a group previously removed from the platform for misrepresentation and non-delivery of work". They closed the account and modified the transaction.

I'm not sure if this is true regarding what you did or did not do in the past. At first, I was thinking of a different way we could still work on the project then I got your Skype message about sending PayPal money which was a bit concerning. Upwork had told me you may have been involved in non-delivery of work (keeping money) then you mention sending money via PayPal. Maybe it was a timing thing but it concerned me about losing money for a non-delivered product.

However, I do believe you are doing good work toward this project. So I'm willing to offer two options:

- 1) My preference would be for you to contact Upwork and get this issue resolved. I sent them a reply email as well asking for details. If they reinstate the contact we had, I'll keep working with you.
- 2) Alternatively, if Upwork cannot reinstate the contract after you contact them and they email me information that is not concerning then I would be willing to pay \$2000 via PayPal (not Friends and Family) at the completion of the project. Again, I'm concerned given the circumstance and the Upwork email that I would pay for a partially completed project and then the project would not be finished.

I'm really sorry you are in this unfortunate situation. I know I would be frustrated if it happened to me. But from my perspective, I could potentially be losing \$2000 without a completed project and I really don't have a good way of knowing it was a safe transaction unless the project were fully completed.

Regards,

James

He replied:

Hello, James
Upwork issue is just temporary problem, and I will resolve it asap.
This is because of my payment issues, I didn't do any irregular activity on upwork, and I will verify my account to prove it.
As you can see, I always provided good work to all of the clients.
You see I completed admin panel and api work perfectly, right?
And only iOS update work is remaining.
Why do you think you can lose your money?
If you don't pay for my completed work, that is the irregular activity.
You get my work and code, but you don't pay me for it, then what is this?
Do you think this is a good business?

Upwork message is just automatic notification, and actually this platform has very strict policy, and no body knows all the policies and keeps it. Anyone can take mistakes sometimes, so I am trying to fix it asap.
But if you don't want to pay for my work, how can I trust you will pay for all of my work after completion?
I have bad experience in this field, some bad clients steal my work after I complete it, they didn't pay me and ran away.
That's why I work on milestone basis.
But I want to trust you, I already provided good work to you, and I was working hard on your iOS app update.
I hope you understand this.
Good relationship is based on good work, right?

At this point, I received an email reply from Upwork:

David Lloyd-Jones (Upwork Help Center)

Feb 17, 4:34 AM EST

Hello James,

My name is David Lloyd-Jones, and your case has been escalated to me for review.

I understand that your contract with your freelancer 'Tony' being ended suddenly has caused disruption to your project. We are confident, however, that our action in suspending his account permanently was correct, and would strongly recommend you do not contact him outside Upwork as this may put your business at risk.

In cases like these, we also recommend that clients revoke any access they have granted, change any shared passwords, and take any other security measures possible in order to ensure that individual is no longer able to access any of their information or production environment.

Unfortunately, I am unable to share the exact reason for Tony's suspension, as this would constitute a breach Upwork's privacy of information policy.

As you can see from your [Transaction History](#) page, and this [screenshot](#), the \$1200.00 you paid has already been refunded to you from the contract, and is sitting as a balance on your Upwork account.

I am also able to offer you the use of our Talent Services team, who can help find you a suitable freelancer to complete your project. If you'd like to take this offer, you can book an appointment with a Talent Specialist by clicking the following link:

So, this guy is definitely a scammer. At this point I pulled access on my server to "Tony". I sent him an email that was basically breaking ties with him:

"Tony":

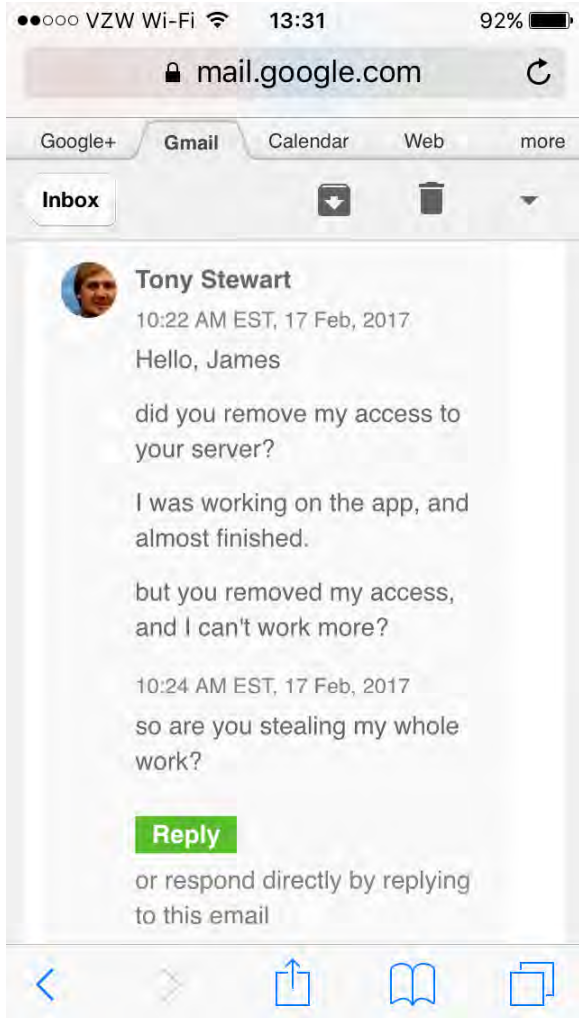
As I said in my email, if Upwork resolved the problem I will work with you. They sent me a follow-up email that strongly recommended I do not do business with you. At this point, I agree. You were very aggressive today in an attempt to get my money. Also, why would I even care about stealing your code? Lastly, I'm having trouble believing you are Canadian given the poor English skills. No, Upwork was not "just automatic notification", which is yet again another lie. The host site you sent me at one point was in Russian. None of your emails routed through Canada.

In the future, I hope you can put your talents to good use instead of trying to take money from others.

Cheers,

James

He got pretty mad at this point and started sending me a slew of messages via Upwork and Skype. He started accusing me of stealing all of his code even though he never shared any of it with me.



So, I had tried to break ties in my prior email. He never sent me any code so there is no way I could be stealing anything. It seemed like an attempt to get me to pay money. He then replied to my prior email and what he sent me was pretty interesting:

Tony Stewart

Feb 17 (2 days ago)

to me

This is not very good, James.
So you are really stealing my hard work.
What a bad business!
I am verifying my account on upwork now, and it takes some days.
That's why I wanted you to pay via paypal now.
I really disappointed in your bad, unprofessional behavior.
You removed my access to the server although you know I am already working on app development.

Check the attached image that shows my passport.
I already submitted it on upwork, and I really believe I can resolve this small upwork issue.
But I want you to pay for the work right now.
If not, I will report you on upwork as bad client and you are doing irregular activity.
Yes, my hosting server is on Eastern Europe, don't you know I can purchase any server on any location?
You are lying my English is poor. It's just excuse to run away from me.



I think he sent me an actual scanned passport, so I boxed off the numbers here. I'm guessing this is just one of the aliases he uses to do his illegal business. Notice that the Upwork picture is similar to his passport; it's probably the same guy and he had a bunch of information about him. I was kind of questioning if I made a mistake here when he sent me the passport showing the same photo. I would feel really bad if this was actually him and I commented about his English skills.

However, then the Skype messages started coming:



Tony Stewart
Online



Today



Hello, James

10:26 AM

you removed my access to your server?

I was working on the app, and I almost finished it.

what's the problem?

so you decided not to work with me?

can you be professional?

are you stealing my whole work and code?

let me get back to you after work

10:27 AM

i got home at 11pm last night

up at 4am



I really wanted to finish the project and work with you in the future again.

10:28 AM



Tony Stewart
Online



Today

i'm home call tonight so i should be free to talk

10:28 AM



but how can I finish the app now?

10:28 AM

yes

but I want to ensure if I really get paid from you.

you already threaten me.

why did you remove me from your server?

let's be professional.

stealing the work is not good.

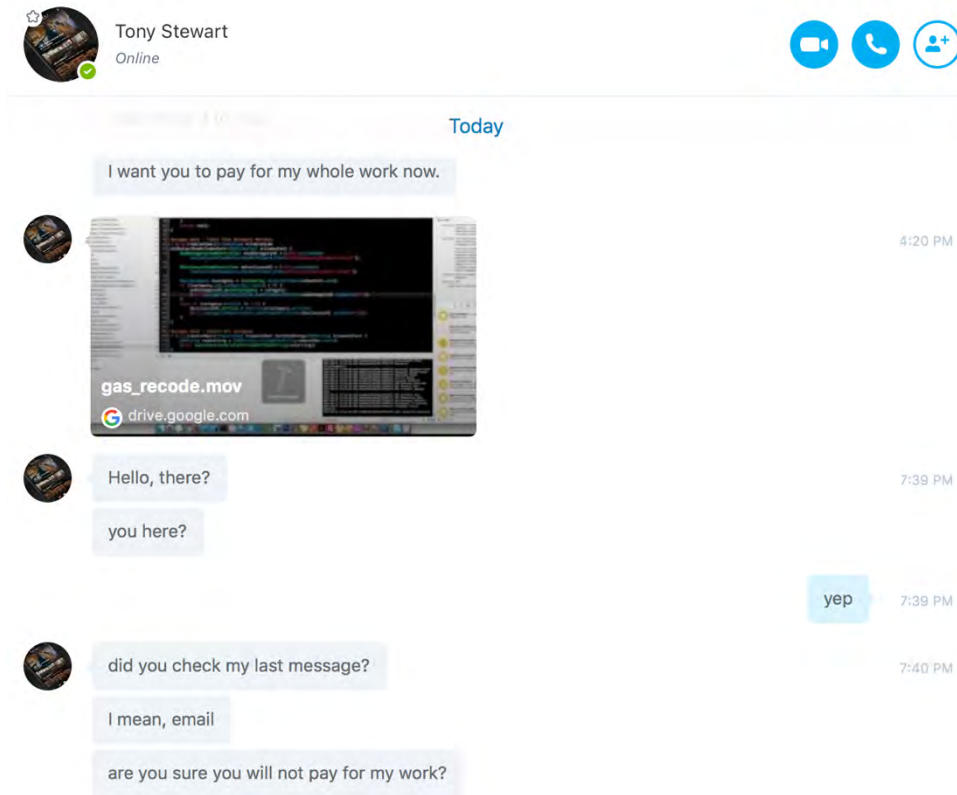
Hello?



Hello, James, I just finished the app.

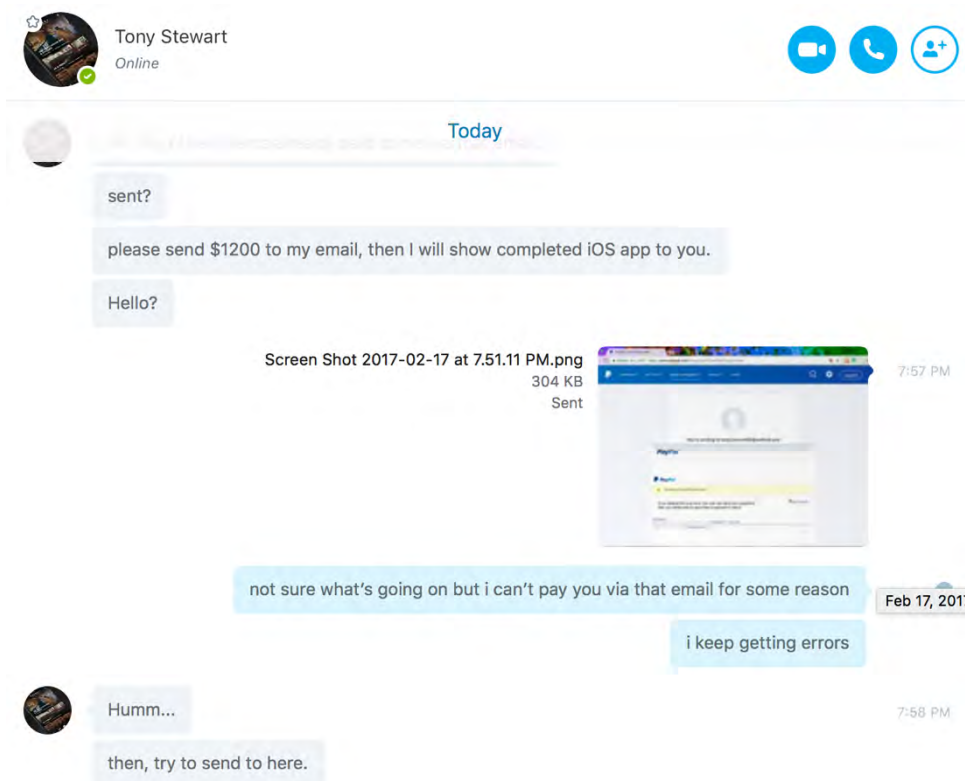
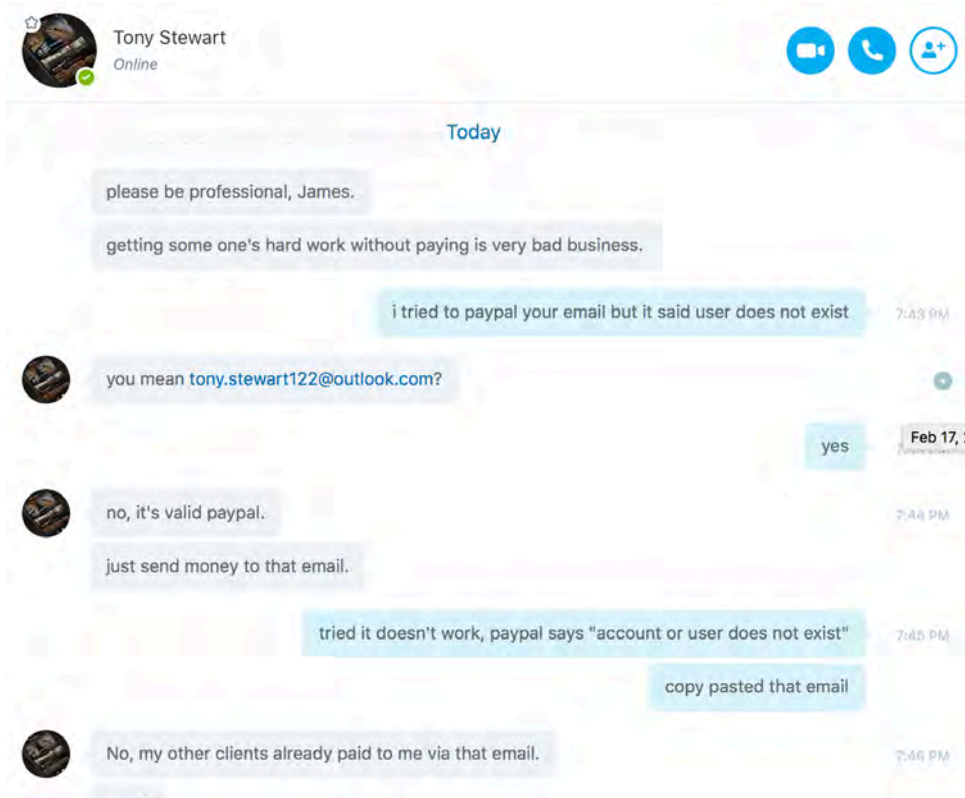
12:26 PM

I can show it to you.



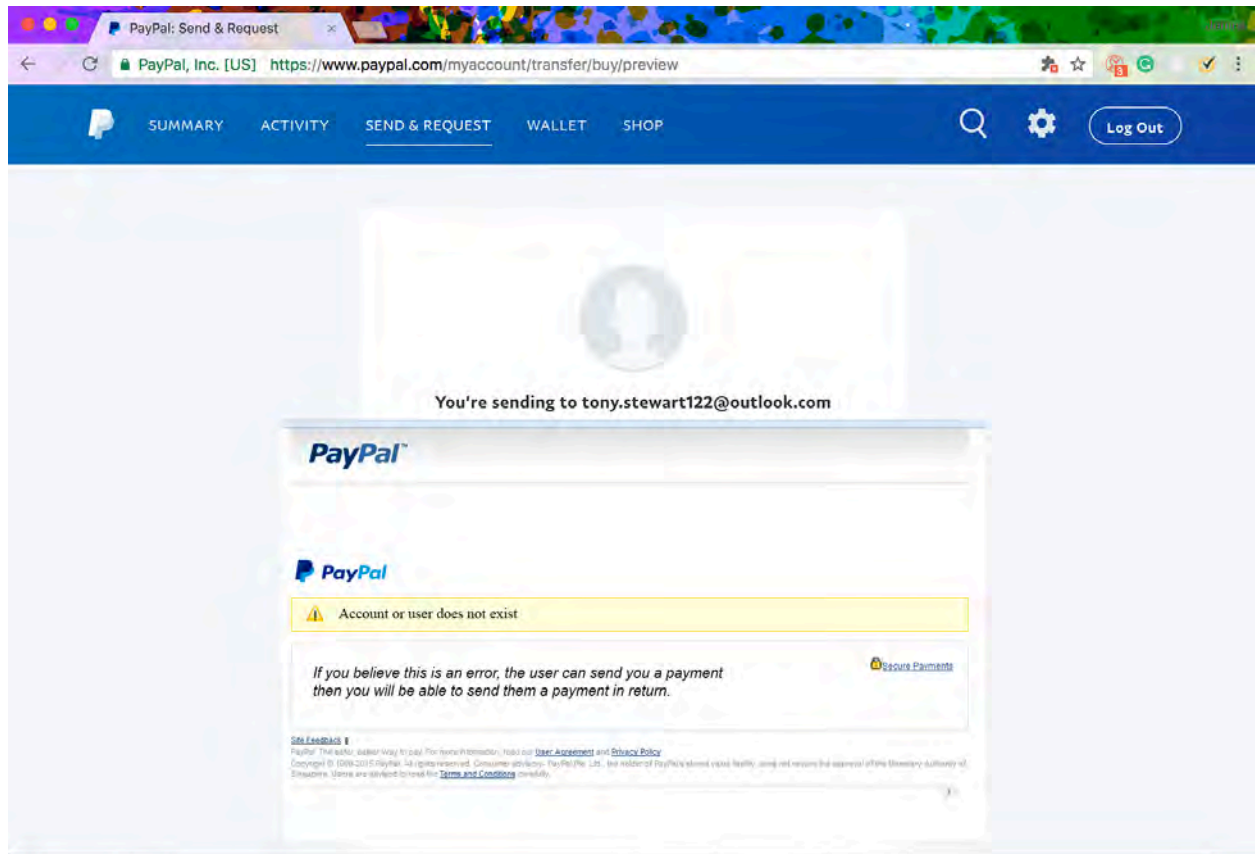
He actually did a bit more work on the project for some reason. The problem is, I can't trust this guy. Plus, he was demanding I send him money via PayPal for the whole work which would be me sending him \$2000+ without receiving anything yet. This is what Upwork was warning me about, "non-delivery of work".

So, my options were to block this guy and move on with my life or to hand-over information about him to Upwork, the Government of Canada (fraudulent use of a passport), and the U.S. FBI. Since I was free for the weekend I opted to keep chatting with him. I was hoping to get more information to share with the authorities and also to waste his time so he couldn't spend it scamming other people. But, it worked out way better than I expected...



What I did here was start a PayPal transaction to the email address he gave me, then took a

screenshot. I found a PayPal error message and just pasted it on top then edited the text with Photoshop. You can see by the time stamps this only took a few minutes.



He then gave me another alias email address and I did the same thing...then a third alias email.



Tony Stewart
Online



Today

simpalley@hotmail.com

it won't let me send unless you're a verified business partner 7:59 PM

meaning we've had a transaction in the past



please try to send to simpalley@hotmail.com 8:00 PM

Screen Shot 2017-02-17 at 8.00.39 PM.png
564 KB
Sent



This is very odd. 8:03 PM

all of my clients are sending without any problem.

you really can't send money to that email?



Tony Stewart
Online



Today

simpalley@hotmail.com

it won't let me send unless you're a verified business partner 7:59 PM

meaning we've had a transaction in the past



please try to send to simpalley@hotmail.com 8:00 PM

Screen Shot 2017-02-17 at 8.00.39 PM.png
564 KB
Sent



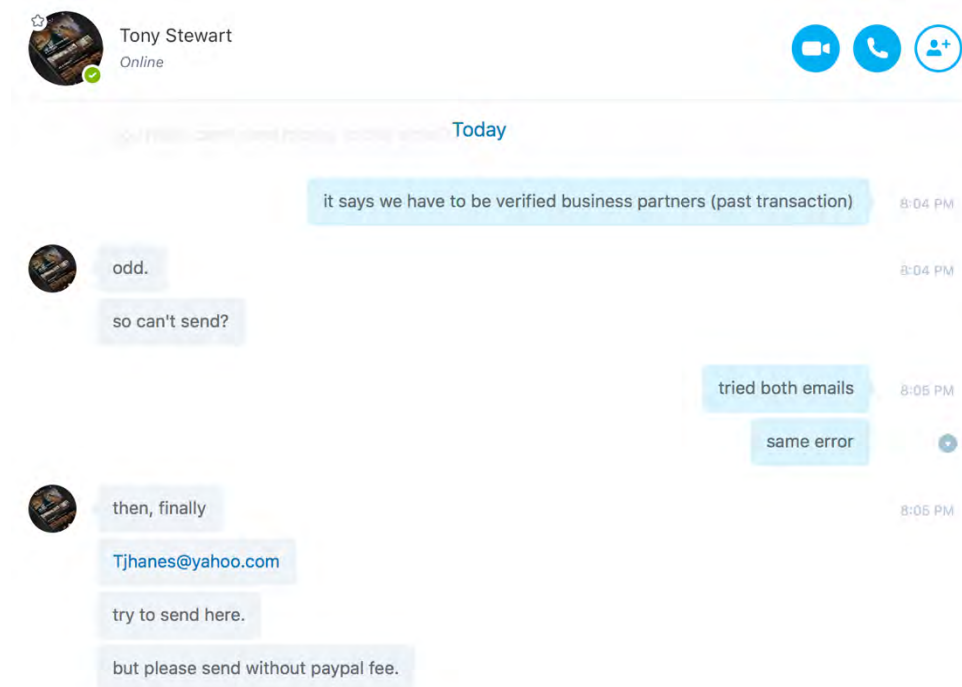
This is very odd. 8:03 PM

all of my clients are sending without any problem.

you really can't send money to that email?

In the meantime, I had emailed all this information to Upwork and suggested they forward to the FBI. I also contacted the Canadian Government via their website with the information about the passport being used for scams. I later filled out a report myself with the FBI.

“Tony” was confused why I couldn’t send him money, so I had to come up with a story to keep this going:



I looked up these emails and they were clearly for other people, so they were likely stolen email addresses that he was using for alias purposes. The last one was for a domain registrar with a P.O. Box in Dallas, Texas. Yet another red flag against this guy.

At this point I was wondering if this scammer would actually send me money. Despite my attempts to make him bail out and all these PayPal “issues”, he kept talking to me.

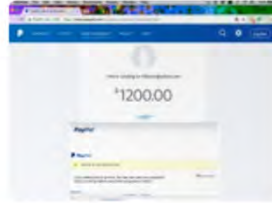


Tony Stewart
Online



Today

Screen Shot 2017-02-17 at 8.09.10 PM.png
443 KB
Sent



something's not right, are you sure?

8:10 PM

it won't let me send

that email did something different, but it still wouldn't let me send

i got a different screen but then the same error



Hum...

8:10 PM

I don't understand.

your paypal has no problem?



Tony Stewart
Online



Today

I think it needs to verify us as business partners

8:11 PM



No, no need.

8:11 PM

If you send \$50 to me I'll just send that back (\$1,250) to make it even

8:11 PM

it should verify us then per that warning that keeps coming up

i watched the video you sent, looks good



I think you can send the money without a problem.

8:13 PM

i tried with 3 different emails

8:13 PM

i buy stuff via paypal all the time

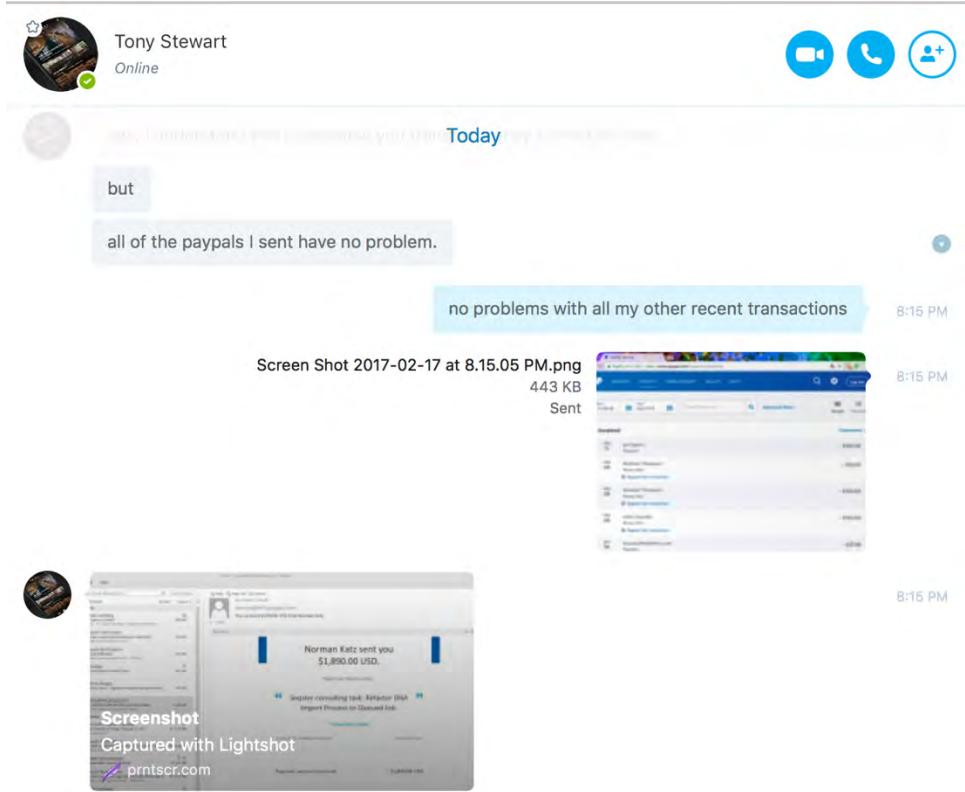
this is the first time i've had this error message



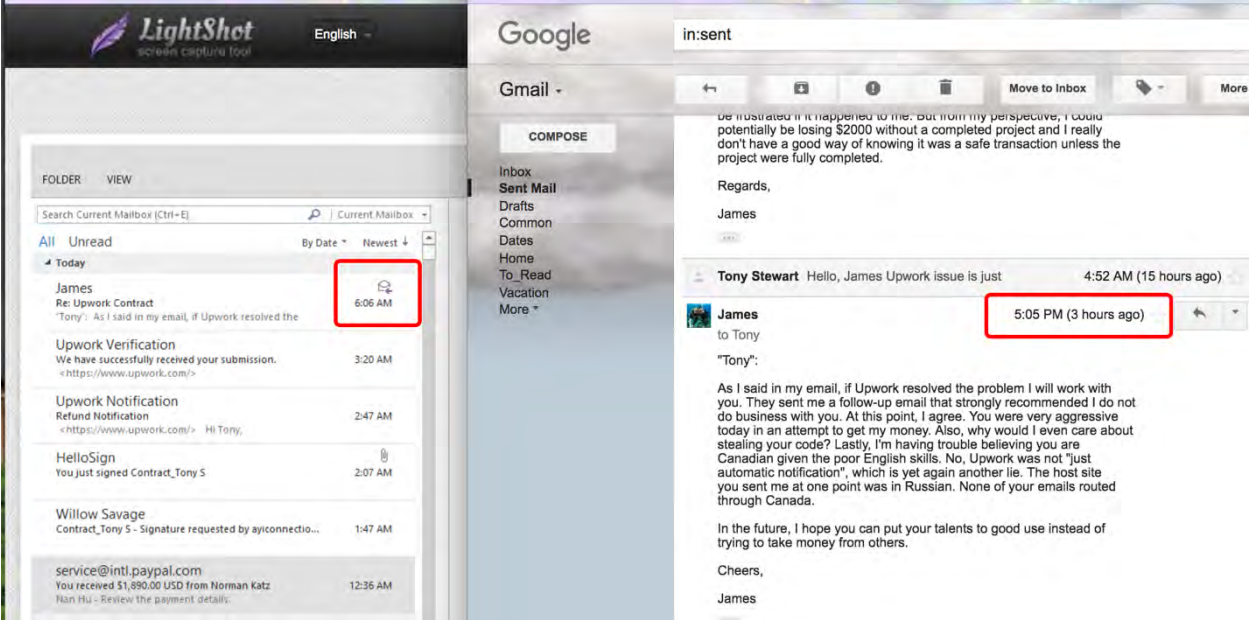
yes, I understand this is because you transfer money to me first time.

8:14 PM

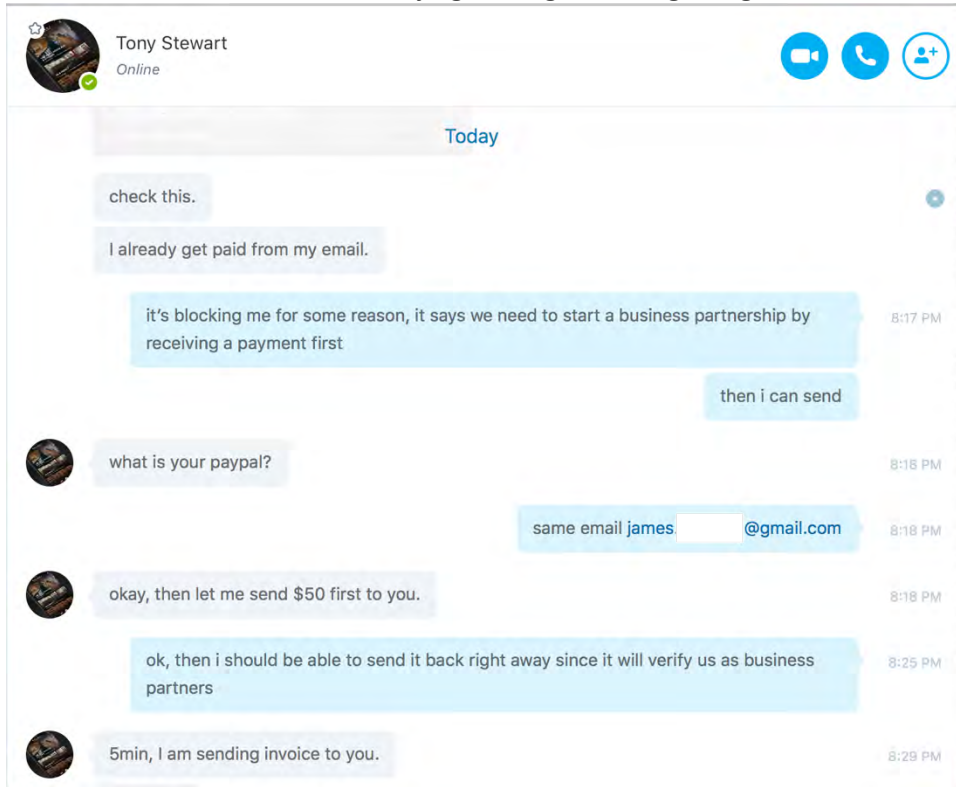
There's no way this guy is going to send me \$50. I figured he would bail out at this point, which is fine because I got enough information and sent it along to the authorities.



Wait a second... He just sent me a screenshot from his computer that has a past PayPal transaction. It also has a list of emails, including one that I sent him. The timestamp on the email is 6:06am. There is no way I could have sent that to him anywhere near that time zone because I have to be at work at 6am and don't do side business at work.



So, "Tony" is a time zone that is 13 hours ahead of me. Definitely not in Canada. A quick check and that time zone contains Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Manila, and Singapore.



He sent me a PayPal request, which came to me via "Nan Hu". That's not a very Canadian name. Well, might as well keep up the theme that my PayPal is having issues. I put an error message on his request that he was not a verified business partner.

Chrome File Edit View History Bookmarks People Window Help

You've got a money request x PayPal: Send & Request x

PayPal, Inc. [US] https://www.paypal.com/myaccount/transfer/payRequest/U-...

SUMMARY ACTIVITY SEND & REQUEST WALLET SHOP Log Out

You're sending to Nan Hu

\$ 1200.00

PayPal

PayPal

⚠ Not a verified business partner

If you believe this is an error, the user can send you a payment then you will be able to send them a payment in return.

Site Feedback

PayPal The safe, easy way to pay. For more information, visit our [User Agreement](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Copyright © 1999-2019 PayPal and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved. PayPal Inc. Ltd. The holder of PayPal's stored value funds does not require the approval of the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Users are advised to read the [Terms and Conditions](#) carefully.

Skype

Tony Stewart Online

Today

same email james@gmail.com

okay, then let me send \$50 first to you.

ok, then i should be able to send it back right away since it will verify us as business partners

5min, I am sending invoice to you.

just sent.

did you get it?

yes

ok, please pay now.

via Skype

Type a message here

Tony Stewart Online

Today

Hey, your paypal has some issue.

I don't think so, I've had no problems in the past, I think it's this business partner issue 8:35 PM

I can send \$1,250 tonight once we're verified but i have to get some sleep soon so i can get up tomorrow, i'm on call

so are you sure we are verified once I send some money first? 8:36 PM

Yes, that's what is says 8:36 PM

Then it will let me send as much money to my business partners as I want but it needs to verify first must be a paypal security feature

ok, hold on. 8:37 PM

let me send \$50 right now.



Tony Stewart
Online



Today

sent

please try to pay now.

done?

Hello?

here, still waiting on it

8:46 PM



waiting for what?

8:46 PM

i haven't received an email yet from paypal

8:46 PM



odd

8:50 PM

I already sent money to you.



Tony Stewart
Online



Today



Hello?

8:56 PM

Hi!

8:57 PM



how about it now

8:57 PM

?

Looks like the beer money showed up, gonna pick up a case of good stuff tonight

8:58 PM



what do you mean?

8:58 PM

why don't you pay me now?

I'll try in the morning, have to get some sleep

8:58 PM

night night

You've got money

service@paypal.com <service@paypal.com> Feb 17 (2 days ago)

to me

from: service@paypal.com <service@paypal.com>
to: James [redacted]
date: Fri, Feb 17, 2017 at 8:40 PM
subject: You've got money
mailed-by: paypal.com
signed-by: paypal.com
encryption: Standard (TLS) [Learn more](#)

Important mainly because of your interaction with messages in the conversation.

Nan Hu sent you \$50.00 USD

Note from Nan Hu:

“ upfront ”

[Transaction Details](#)

Transaction ID: 3FT59919R59668526 February 17, 2017

Yep, Nan Hu actually sent me \$50. I'm not including his actual mailing address, but it was from the Jilin province in China. This guy was definitely trying to scam all along.


I joked about the “beer money” showing up. I figured this would be the end; he would get mad, reverse the payment, and move on. I got this email the next day:




Reply to me asap.

Tony Stewart Feb 18 (1 day ago)

to me


Hello, James
You are not replying to me and you are not paying now although I sent my money \$50 to your paypal.
Are you going to steal my money now?
Please reply to me and pay asap.
This is not very good, do you know I am waiting for your reply all day long?


 Tony Stewart
Online


  


Yesterday


Today


 Hello 7:00 AM


 you here now?


 Hello, please reply to me asap. 8:48 AM

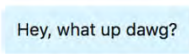
 Hello?


 Now it's more than 12hrs later when you said you would pay before work.




 you are really stealing my money as well now?

 Hello? 1:16 PM


 there?


 Hey, what up dawg? 3:24 PM

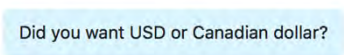
 Tony Stewart
Online


  


Today


 Oh hommie, buddy, homeslice, etc 3:24 PM

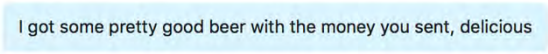
 when will you pay? 3:24 PM


 Did you want USD or Canadian dollar? 3:25 PM


 USD 3:25 PM

 I thought you might want Canadian since you live there 3:25 PM

 USD is okay for me. 3:25 PM

 I got some pretty good beer with the money you sent, delicious 3:26 PM

 my price \$1200 was USD. 3:26 PM

 what?



Tony Stewart
Online



my order #17,015

Today

what?

are you kidding me?

No way, it was really delicious

3:27 PM

No kidding at all



Hey, I don't want to joke with you.

pay me at once.

I thought you wanted me to pay you for each task not all at once

3:28 PM



you said you will pay this morning.

3:28 PM

but you never even replied to me.

Yea, I was sleeping, had a bunch of those delicious beers

3:29 PM



Tony Stewart is typing...

via Skype



Tony Stewart
Online



my order #17,015

Today



Hey, pay at once.

3:29 PM

so you bought beer by stealing my money?

You said you were waiting all day, but it was night time in Canada, so weird

3:30 PM

No we had an agreement and you made a PayPal transaction on the agreement



yes, so pay now.

3:30 PM

Then I bought delicious beer, want me to tell you about the beer? It's really good

3:30 PM



pay now

3:31 PM

pay \$1200 now.

no

1250



Tony Stewart
Online



don't kid me

Today

pay now.

We're adults not kids, right?

3:31 PM



Hey, you are really kidding me now?

What do you mean? I'm confused

3:32 PM



are you a really scammer like this?

3:32 PM

I thought we were talking about beer or the app you were making

3:32 PM

A scammer? No way, I wouldn't resort to such terrible things



I want you to pay \$1250 now.

3:32 PM

Those are the worst people in the world

3:32 PM



but you are kidding me now.

3:32 PM



Tony Stewart
Online



hey

Today

People who can't make a living by doing things nice so they rip off other people

3:33 PM



Hey, I don't want to talk about other things.

3:33 PM

Then when they grow old they have to think about the bad things they did in their lives and wonder if they are really good people or not

3:33 PM



pay at once.

3:33 PM

Tony, what email did you want me to send to?

3:33 PM



I already sent invoice to you.

3:34 PM

Did anyone call you "Stewy" growing up, that'd be kinda funny, like the kid in Family Guy

3:34 PM



Hey

3:35 PM

Plus the bowtie in your picture

3:35 PM



Tony Stewart
Online



Today

Turn the camera in your picture

Sorry, off topic



don't talk about other things.

3:35 PM

pay now.

send money at once.

Do you do Venmo since my PayPal is acting up?

3:36 PM



hwat?

3:36 PM

what?

It's like PayPal, nevermind I can try PayPal again

3:36 PM



Hey

3:36 PM

Who's this Hunan Beef guy? Friend or something? Doesn't sound Canadian, eh

3:37 PM



Tony Stewart
Online



Today

Turn the camera in your picture



my wife.

3:37 PM

Hey

Oh sorry, sounded like a guy's name but I guess Chinese guys and girls all look alike, right?!?

3:37 PM



are you paying or not?

3:37 PM

Opening another beer, just a sec

3:38 PM



I am really angry.

3:38 PM


what

?

Why so mad Tony?

3:38 PM

I honestly can't believe this guy is still chatting with me. Poking fun at his name, a bad racist joke, wasting his time to drink beer...I can't get rid of this guy no matter how hard I try.

 Tony Stewart
Online

Today

you didn't pay 3:38 PM
I have been waiting from night until now.

No, I definitely paid for the beer, I can send you a receipt if you think I stole it


No 3:39 PM

Ok no problem 3:39 PM

send \$1250 3:39 PM

Do you still have that bowtie from your passport? I kinda want to see a pic of you with it so I know it's you, better safe than sorry right? 3:40 PM

Hello? 3:40 PM
are you really kidding me?

 Tony Stewart
Online

Today

do you think I am your slave?
I don't do what you order.

I think you're a professional Canadian programmer, not some slave 3:41 PM

Yes 3:41 PM
pay now.

For all I know you could be one of those crazy Chinese guys 3:41 PM
No offense if you're wife is one of those

My wife is Singaporean. 3:42 PM

Boys I mean, you might swing both ways 3:42 PM

what's the matter? 3:42 PM
that's out of our topic.



Tony Stewart
Online



Today

so will you pay me or not?

You are really making me mad.

It's not that out of topic, if you're gay that's totally fine. I kinda figured you were.

3:43 PM



I never imagined you are really unprofessional like this.

3:43 PM

I worked on your job for full time.

Ironic that you're calling me unprofessional

3:44 PM



and delivered all the code.

3:44 PM

and finished the app now.

but you removed me from your server.

and now stealing even my money.



Tony Stewart
Online



Today

do you think you are a good man?

do you think this is a good business?

I'm not stealing, we made an agreement. I bought great beer with it too, truly good stuff, lots of hops

3:45 PM



Hey

3:45 PM

You want to know if I'm a good man? I guess I could come visit big boy 😊

3:45 PM



did I said to buy beer with my money?

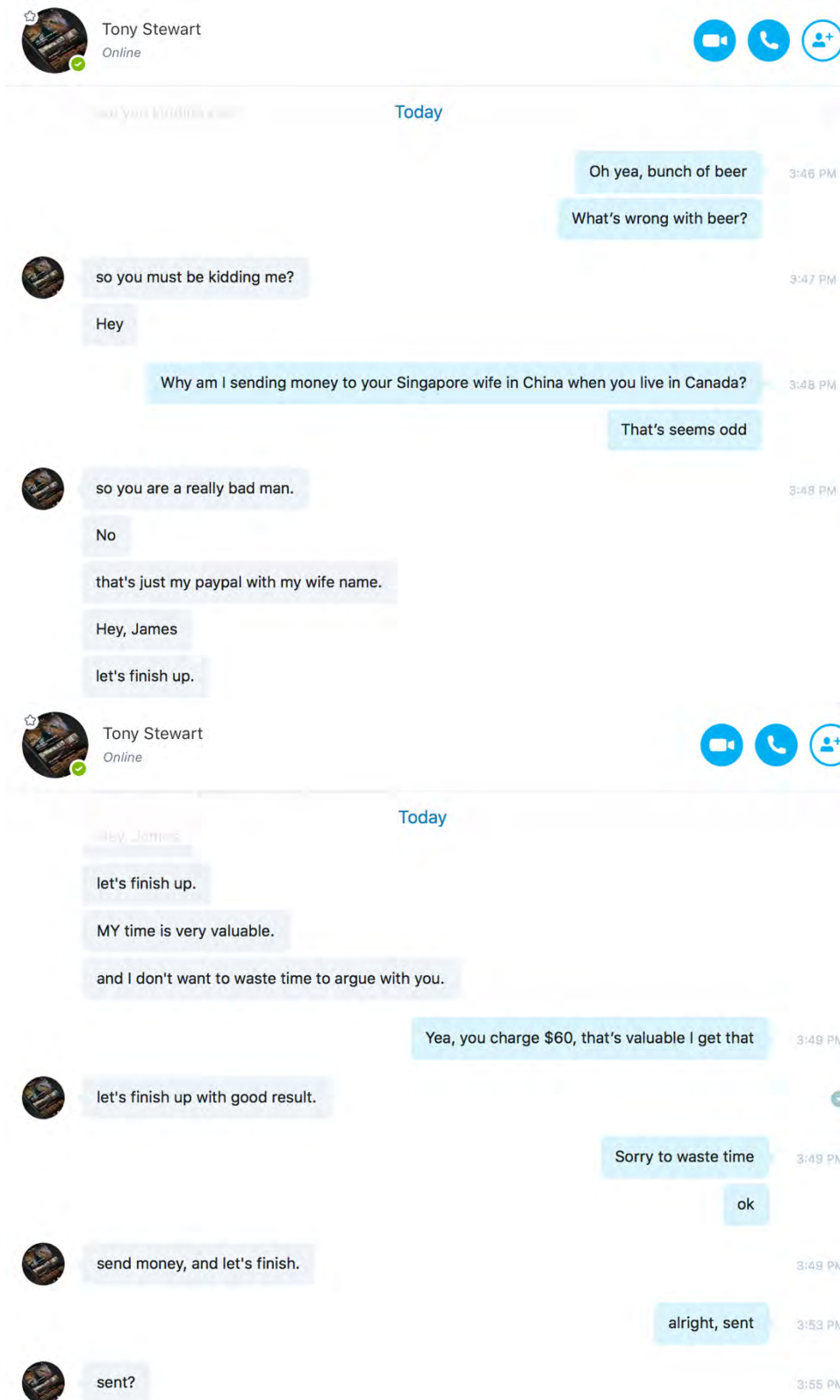
3:45 PM

did I said like it?

you said you can pay me if I send money first to you.

but you bought beer with it?

are you kidding me?



So, I sent Nan Hu a request for \$1,250 but then sent him a picture that looked like I sent him the money. I figured this would confuse him and waste some more time...and I was right.



You requested \$1,250.00 from edennh@126.com

[Request More Money](#)

New! [PayPal.Me](#), the link to getting paid

Want to get paid fast as well? Share your [PayPal.Me](#) link with anyone so they can send money to your PayPal account in seconds.



You sent \$1,250.00 USD to Nan Hu

YOUR NOTE TO Nan Hu

“ Request from Nan Hu ”

[Payment request details](#)

Transaction ID: U-8L870922AY4188317

February 18, 2017

Amount sent

\$1,250.00 USD



Tony Stewart
Online



Today



not received anything yet.

Hello?

did you really send?

it went to your email edennh@126.com 3:56 PM

for confirmation



can you send screenshot? 3:56 PM

still not getting anything.

Hello?

there?

i'll screenshot 3:59 PM

Gmail - You've sent money.png
543 KB



4:01 PM



Tony Stewart
Online



Today



jeez

4:02 PM

did you send without fee?

I think so, it just said it needed your confirmation

4:02 PM



okay, let me check again, maybe it has some delay.

4:03 PM

did it come through?

4:09 PM



no

4:10 PM

should i try a different email?

4:10 PM



what do you mean?

4:10 PM

you said you already paid.

yea but you're not getting the confirmation email

4:11 PM



Tony Stewart
Online



Today



No

+

1 min

i'll have paypal send another email

4:11 PM

they have a "reminder" button i see here



okay, just got the email.

4:11 PM

ok

4:12 PM



so

4:12 PM

will you finish the app?

yea, i think i'll work on the rest of it from here on out

4:12 PM



so I can't get paid for my app update work?

4:13 PM



Tony Stewart
Online



Today

oh i see what you're asking 4:13 PM



as I said, I already finished the app. 4:13 PM

I can send source code once you send 2nd payment.

You asked me if I will finish the app so I thought you were suggesting I finish 4:13 PM



No 4:14 PM

ok 4:14 PM

I'll send \$800 additional now for source code



why \$800? 4:14 PM

I thought we agreed on \$2000 total, no? 4:14 PM



I thought \$2400. 4:14 PM



Tony Stewart
Online



Today

How about \$2200, that's between 4:15 PM



40hrs 4:15 PM

I'll send PayPal request for \$1000 and if the App works I'll send another \$200 4:15 PM



okay, please pay 1k now. 4:15 PM

alright 4:16 PM



then, I will send source code. 4:16 PM

Tony Stewart

sent your way for confirmation 4:16 PM



let me know once you sent 1k. 4:16 PM

you should receive from paypal soon, needs your confirmation thought for it to process 4:16 PM

I sent him another request, this time for him to send me \$1000 (making it \$2200 total).

Chat interface with Tony Stewart (Online). Includes a header with contact info and icons, a date separator "Today", and a series of messages and a screenshot.

you should receive from paypal account, maybe your confirmation brought forth to access

Today

ok, so you sent 1k?

yes, you didn't get email yet? 4:19 PM


i sent reminder

yes, some delay on my end, I suppose 4:20 PM

5 min

screenshot, please

PayPal_ Transaction Details.png 257 KB Sent 4:23 PM





Tony Stewart
Online



Today

I think you need to login to PayPal to confirm both of them 4:23 PM



5min 4:24 PM



still not getting anything. 4:33 PM

did you login to your paypal account and check? it's showing on my end 4:34 PM



yes 4:34 PM

2 requests to you for confirmation 4:34 PM



I am in now. 4:34 PM

when did you make your paypal?

? 4:34 PM



your paypal is very new one? 4:35 PM



Tony Stewart
Online



Today

no, several years old 4:35 PM



but why am I not getting any confirmation email? 4:35 PM

I think you have to confirm them via your PayPal account, you don't see them? 4:36 PM

I sent both and reminders for each, that should be 4 messages



very odd 4:40 PM

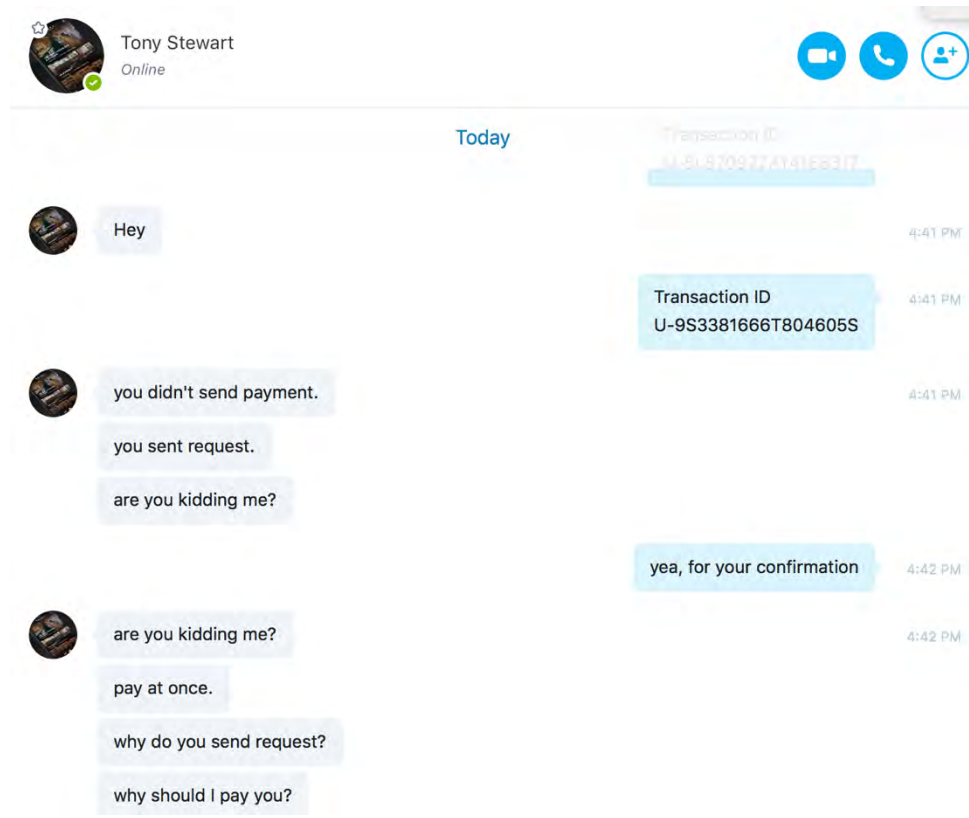
I am already logged in my paypal, and can't see any confirmation.

no messages or requests at all? 4:40 PM



not at all. 4:40 PM

Transaction ID
U-8L870922AY4188317 4:41 PM



This is the part where “Tony” figured out I sent him money request instead of sending him money. I don’t think that made him very happy.



Tony Stewart
Online



why should I buy you?

Today

I should send request to you.

that doesn't make sense though

4:43 PM



what?

4:43 PM

Hey

you don't know how to send money via paypal?

this is very difficult.

why are you so difficult like this?

yea it has been difficult huh

4:44 PM



pay \$2250 now.

4:44 PM

i had a few beers, i could be confused

4:44 PM



pay right now.

4:44 PM



Tony Stewart
Online



Today

i had a few beers, i could be confused



pay right now.

4:44 PM

i sent you the requests for your confirmation, \$1250 and \$1000

4:44 PM



why do you send request?

4:44 PM

your request means I should pay you.

are you kidding me?

Hello?

there?

Hello?

Howdy partner

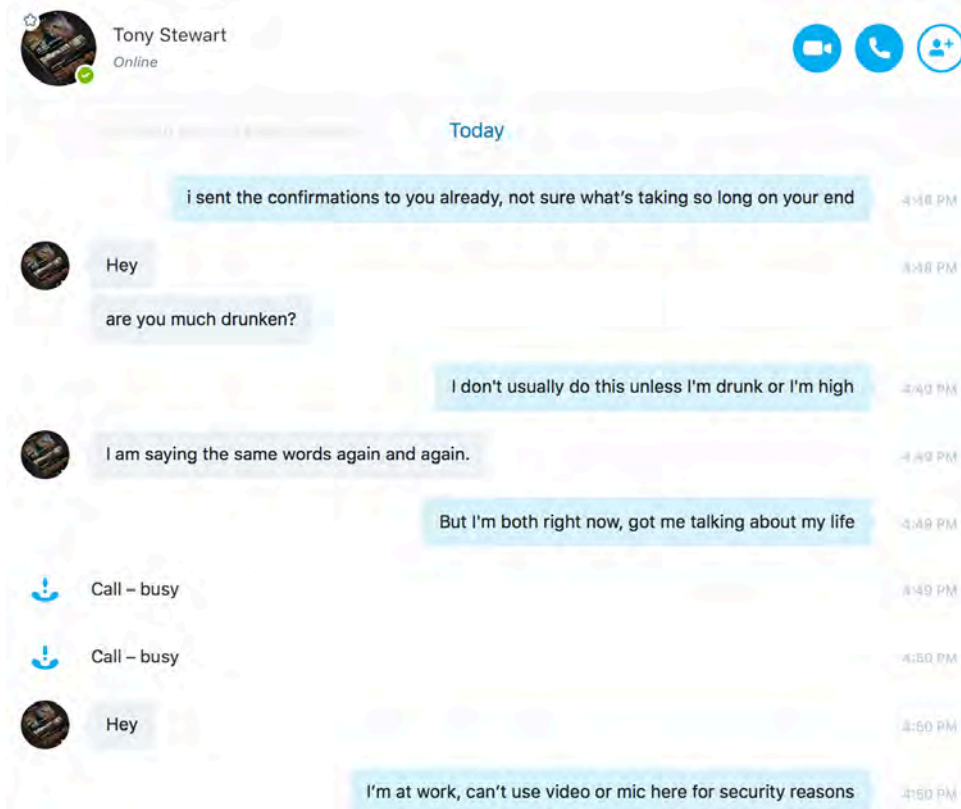
4:47 PM



are you kidding me?

4:47 PM

will you send payment now or not



Doubt he caught that I was using some Drake lyrics. If you know the song where those lyrics come from, check out the first couple lines...



Tony Stewart
Online



Today
I'm at work, can't use video or microphone for security reasons



I am calling you.
what?

4:50 PM

jk jk

4:50 PM



are you a scammer?

4:50 PM

are you a scammer?

4:50 PM



Call - busy

4:50 PM



Hey
will you pay or not?

4:51 PM

Did you find that bowtie from your picture so I can see you wearing it? Is that why you want to video chat?

4:51 PM



Tony Stewart
Online



Today
Did you find that bowtie from your picture so I can see you wearing it? Is that why you want to video chat?



don't kid human.



i don't kid hunan

4:51 PM



you kid.
why don't you send payment?
you are requesting money from me.
what is this?
are you kidding me?

4:51 PM

why won't you send? are you scamming me?

4:52 PM



I got the request confirmation from paypal.
why should I show you?
this is out of topic

4:52 PM

Tony Stewart
Online

Today

this is out of topic.

I am requesting you to send the money now.

idk thought you might want to show me you wearing the bowtie 4:53 PM

but just the bowtie 😊

but you are kidding me for many hours.

you are really a bad man.

you got the payment from me.

nope, you're the bad man, scamming people 4:53 PM

then, why don't you pay me now? 4:54 PM

because you are suppose to send me payment 4:54 PM

that was the agreement

Tony Stewart
Online

Today

because you are suppose to send me payment 4:54 PM

that was the agreement

unless you're trying to scam me

what? 4:54 PM

let's call;. 4:54 PM

Call – busy 4:54 PM

that's weird, the call is coming from asia, i thought you were in canada 4:55 PM

No 4:55 PM

are you kidding me?

ok fine, go to <https://time.is/> right now and take a screenshot 4:56 PM

Time.is
Your time is exact!
The difference from Time.is and your device is 0.000 seconds.
View on Google Chrome



Tony Stewart
Online



Today



Hey

4:57 PM

if you don't want to pay me, just let me know.

i'm waiting on your payment currently

4:57 PM



what?

4:57 PM

my payment?

are u kidding me?

will you send the payment or not?

4:57 PM



why should I pay you?

4:57 PM

for my time, we've been talking for almost 2 hours now

4:58 PM

my rate is about \$200/hr

as a consultant



Tony Stewart
Online



Today



Hey, let's talk tomorrow.

4:58 PM

I think you are mad now.

I will dispute your paypal for my last payment.

ok, will chat tomorrow

4:59 PM

that'll be hard to do since we agreed and i'm sending shipping confirmation

plus i already bought that delicious beer

are you sending those two payments to me or not? i've been waiting a while now

did you want to call?



Call - no answer

5:04 PM

aww why aren't you answering? i thought you wanted to chat

5:04 PM



Tony Stewart
Online



Today



Hello

2:28 AM

you here?

by when will you kid me?

you are so ridiculous, why should I pay you?

you should pay me.

anyway, get back to me when you are in normal state.



Hello

1:31 PM

you here?

Hello?



Hello?

2:07 PM

Hi!

2:40 PM



Tony Stewart
Online



Today



Hi

2:44 PM

You messaged me

2:45 PM



Yes

2:45 PM

do you think you are in normal state now

?

Always have been

2:45 PM



so when will you pay me?

2:46 PM

I don't usually pay scammers


2:46 PM

It's kinda nice when they pay me though, that was a new one, thanks for that



what?

2:48 PM

 Tony Stewart
Online

Today

It's obvious you're not Tony Stewart 2:47 PM

you have been cheated me from last week? 2:47 PM

I am Tony.

are you kidding me?

Nope, Canadian authorities confirmed that you're not, stolen passport 2:47 PM


Same with the other stolen aliases

so you were kidding me from yesterday? 2:47 PM

Totally, it was a lot of fun wasting your time 2:48 PM

I got to drink the beer you bought me and chat with you

how bad you are! 2:49 PM

 Tony Stewart
Online

Today

Aww, you mad bro? 2:49 PM

you are stealing my hard work, my money and my time. 2:49 PM

Nope, no work was stolen...you barely did anything and it was part of a scam 2:49 PM

You gave me the money per agreement, not stolen

I have never met a bad evil like you. 2:50 PM

Your time, well that's on me a bit but also you 2:50 PM

Hey man, you're the one scamming people

How does it feel to get a taste of your own medicine?

tell me what did I cheat you? 2:50 PM

You are using fake aliases to cheat people out of money via Upwork 2:51 PM



Tony Stewart
Online



Today



what about you?

you said you will send money once I first send money to you.

you are a totally scammer.

You got to admit that is hilarious, right?

1:52 PM



and you already got my admin panel work.

1:52 PM

Trying to scam \$2000 or more out of me

2:42 PM

and in the end you sent me money

it's pretty funny



funny?

2:42 PM

ok, I will show what I can do from now on.

be careful from now



Tony Stewart
Online



ok, I will show what I can do from now on. Today

be careful from now.

you will be killed by my guys.

LOL



I will dispute your paypal first.

2:56 PM

I am already tracking your locations.

Yea man, gotta get your \$50 back before you kill me, right?

2:56 PM



No

2:56 PM

Oh man, tracking all my locations?

2:56 PM

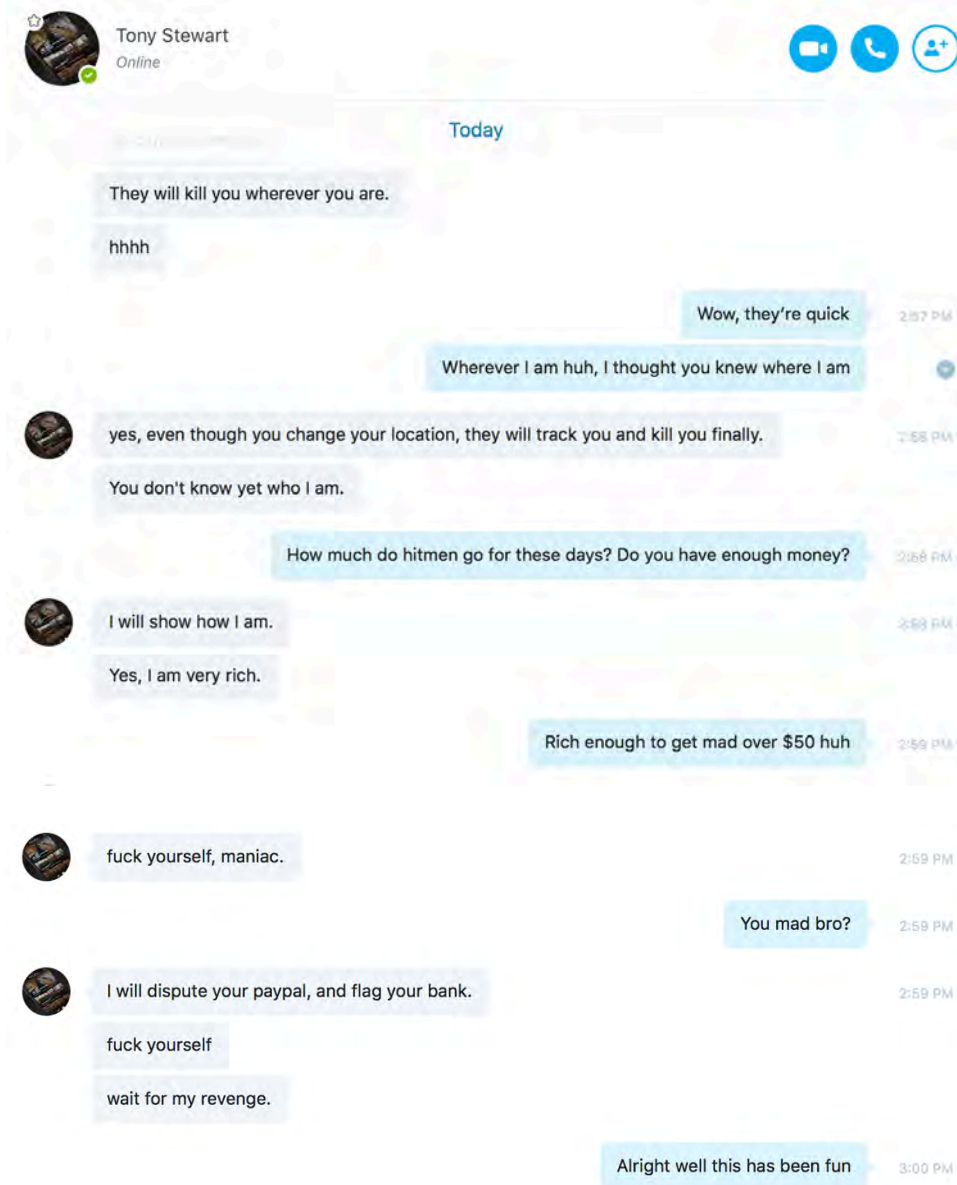


Sure

2:57 PM

My guys have already left to reach you.

be careful from now.



Nan tried to reverse the payment he sent me. When the email from PayPal arrived, I shared all the information about him being a scammer. PayPal was waiting for Nan to respond and a few days later I got an email:

Completion of Buyer Complaint Investigation # PP-005-576-489-631

Inbox x

service@paypal.com

3:24 AM (18 hours ago)

to me

Dear James

PayPal has concluded our investigation of the following Buyer Complaint:

Buyer's name: Nan Hu
Buyer's email: edennh@126.com
Transaction ID: 1A234063HU002705L

Transaction date: Feb 17, 2017
Transaction amount: \$50.00 USD
Your transaction ID: 3FT59919R59668526
Case number: PP-005-576-489-631

Because the buyer has reported that the claim has been amicably resolved, this case has been closed.

Thank you for your cooperation with our investigation.

Sincerely,

Protection Services Department

Please do not reply to this email. This mailbox is not monitored and you will not receive a response. For assistance, log in to your PayPal account and click the Help link in the top right corner of any PayPal page.

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PPID PP726 - 99bc02f03c67c

Mobile Payment Received (Unique Transaction ID # 3FT59919R59668526)

Original Transaction						
Date	Type	Status	Details	Gross	Fee	Net
Feb 17, 2017	Payment From Nan Hu	Completed	...	\$50.00 USD	-\$2.25 USD	\$47.75 USD

Related Transactions						
Date	Type	Status	Details	Gross	Fee	Net
Feb 20, 2017	The funds that were placed on temporary hold are now available for use	Removed	Details	-\$50.00 USD	\$2.25 USD	-\$47.75 USD
Feb 27, 2017	Update to Reversal	Canceled	Details	\$47.75 USD	\$0.00 USD	\$47.75 USD

Sent by: Nan Hu (The sender of this payment is **Non-U.S. - Verified**)

Buyer email: edennh@126.com

Payment sent to: james. @gmail.com

Total amount: \$50.00 USD

Fee amount: -\$2.25 USD

Net amount: \$47.75 USD

[Issue a refund ?](#)

You have up to 180 days to refund the payment.

The Maniac: 1
The Scammer: 0