

Beware of returning that missed call!

 By Leigh Andrews

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NEWSWATCH: There's a new mobile scam doing the rounds – and it's affecting freelancers and those who do international business.



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Called the Wangiri scam (in Japanese, *wan* means “one” and *giri* means “cut” or “hang up” depending on the source), it entails your phone ringing just once from an international number, usually in the middle of the night, so you don’t notice it and wake up to a missed call.

The missed call itself isn’t the problem, it’s what you do with it that is: When you call back, you either trigger an avalanche of spam being sent to you, or you get put on hold or put through to a premium number that charges exorbitant rates, so your airtime is instantly chewed up.

The coldest cold call

It’s like the worst kind of marketing cold call – but you’re not even wasting your time talking about details you’re not interested in. You’re charged for being a decent human being who is concerned that you’ve missed some important information.



Dean Paarman
about 7 years ago



So I been hit by something called the Wangari fraud scam.... meh. If you keep getting missed calls from Somalia then don't reply or call back... depletes all your credit... that explains why I lost R180 airtime twice...

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Apparently it arises from a computer dialling a large number of mobile phone numbers at random. While it's making the rounds at the moment, [MyBroadband reports](#) that SA was hit with a round of WhatsApp Wangiri calls back in 2015, where you'd receive a contact attachment with a text asking that you 'call me back'.

The big networks like [MTN advise](#) that you rather be cautious in this regard – if it's an overseas number you don't know and they really want to speak to you, they'll leave a message or call back.

[Here's a list](#) of international numbers that were identified as Wangiri scam originators back in 2016. Let us know if you've been affected by the scam in the comments section below...

ABOUT LEIGH ANDREWS

Leigh Andrews AKA the #MilkshakeQueen, is former Editor-in-Chief: Marketing & Media at Bizcommunity.com, with a passion for issues of diversity, inclusion and equality, and of course, gourmet food and drinks! She can be reached on Twitter at @Leigh_Andrews.

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