

How to know if a site is secure for purchasing

There's an old adage: be weary the Trojan Horse.

There's a reason for why it's still relevant: when people browse the Internet they make thousands of gut-instinct judgements a week. Not only do they browse the net, but they also assess what businesses send them from it and what services they offer.

What's the underlying concern with all this choice? The same as it is if you were doing business in person. Is a website safe, and is it something you would give your credit card or PayPal details too?

People buy things online all the time: food, items, clothes or technology. When they're buying from the Internet, it's important that they feel safe. It sounds ominous, but you wouldn't give a stranger the keys to your house or your bank number without first knowing more about them. So how do we know when a site is secure for purchasing?

The reality is most people do not have time to research every single website on the Internet. Sometimes there won't even be any extra information on a website anyway. But there are some simple indicators: if there is a padlock in the website URL bar and it features 'https' in the address bar (the s, believe it or not, stands for 'secure'), then it's a protected source.

Reliable, trusty brands are what everyone wants for business and pleasure purchases. Using PayPal to play your favourite online games or to make purchases is by far the easiest and most reliable method. Controlling your spending through a trusted platform gives the customer peace of mind that their information remains protected.

Whenever anyone is doing anything online, there is an element of confused reluctance to accept that the Internet can be a dangerous place. It is, as one visit to the junk folder in your email will confirm, just that.

The best way around this is to look for respected brands, trusted companies with an ethos of confidence that places client and user protection front and centre. That is the only way to play games, to shop and to browse online in a way that is safe; ultimately giving the trusted experience the user needs.

What is more important to a user than protection and trust?

Donald Trump and Theresa May's 'special relationship' has been turned into NSFW street art

Katy Perry seems an unlikely choice to spearhead satire. Nevertheless, her parody of Donald Trump and Theresa May at the 2017 Brit Awards was expert trolling: Dancing skeletons of the two leaders summed up the feelings of an entire generation that isn't content to have their future snapped away.

And it didn't stop there. There's a silent protest ripping apart the pretentiousness of leaders and their disconnect from the electorate. Street art is now the mocking pointing finger. Across the country, murals are popping up which are, most of the time, NSFW. And why should they be? Protests should not be pretty, and artistic expression across history has always contained frustration and motive in the solid paint markers on street walls.

Donald Trump is a bloated muse of comedy. He exists as a mirror for comedians to see the monster they've created with decades of lampooning grey politicians. He is a decidedly reactionary beast and the same applies to May: her sanguine commitment to Brexit has created a pantomime villain of false modesty. Forever and always have people pined for decisiveness and are now left with precisely that with little room for discourse. Be careful what you wish for is the lesson.

That street art across the country and the world is taking aim on such an absurd situation is not surprising. It's less surprising still that much of it contains sexual innuendo as to the nature of their relationship; just how 'special' it is and who has the power.

May's relationship with Trump and her urgent need to make Britain 'global' (whatever that means) necessitates getting into bed with someone who not only openly despises women but is just as equally a protectionist. The irony, the deceptions, the empty smiles are ripe for parody: are our leaders unaware of the hypocrisy, or are they too stupid to realise the inherent contradictions in their agenda?

Young people have never even more isolated, and some are lashing out. Street art represents an immutable reaction against a political class that doesn't want to listen, a voting system that is flawed and a society that feels angrier than ever in a generation. It is no coincidence that these montages are so often graphic in their depiction and so publicly displayed.

There is one question that overrides all others. Who is worse: the fool, or the fool that follows? Theresa May's obsession with Brexit disguises a mind that was probably never as pro-Remain as she thought she was. Trump's racist rhetoric toward Muslims is as absurd as it is unfounded. Street art, like all great protests, is a voice for the people and it should continue to be innovative, crass and loud.