

🗨️ EXPOSING THE KICKSTARTER SCAM: HOW WE WERE TARGETED — AND WHAT EVERY CREATOR NEEDS TO KNOW

📌 1. The Setup: A Fake Mentorship Program

This scam did not sneak in the back door — it walked in wearing a name tag and pretending to be official.

We were contacted by someone calling herself Laurie Stark, supposedly the *"Director of Strategies and Analytics"* for Kickstarter. The email came from `laurie@kickstartersupport.com` — which looks legit until you realise Kickstarter's actual domain is `kickstarter.com`, not some slapped-together imposter. (more about this later 😊)

Laurie congratulated us on our campaign and offered to connect us to a Kickstarter Mentor through something called the Kickstarter Experience Sharing Program. It sounded plausible, right down to the name — until you realised this "program" never existed.

The assigned "mentor"? Jason Tagmire — a real creator, with real credentials. But the email we were given was `jasontagmire1@gmail.com`, and the moment we reached out, we were pushed directly toward his "trusted" marketing team: Intellectual Digital Solutions.

Let's be clear:

None of this was real.

But it looked just credible enough to fool someone trying to make their campaign succeed. Like me. 😞

💬 2. The Buzzwords, the Bait, the Lies

Once we were passed along, the real scam began.

The agency contact — calling himself Solomon Williams — spun up a storm of vague but confident-sounding promises:

- Manual and technical optimization
- Kickstarter algorithm compliance
- Featured newsletter placement
- Backend code adjustments



- Platform badges like "PWLB"

It all sounded official... until you actually understood how Kickstarter works.

They do not allow backend access. There is no secret API. You cannot "optimize code" inside Kickstarter because you do not have the keys. Sounds a little hackeresque no?

But that did not stop Solomon. He went on about how *"successful campaigns get featured because their code is clean, and algorithms are aligned."*

It was all made-up jargon — the scammer equivalent of a magician waving both hands while lifting your wallet.

The moment that really raised eyebrows?

"We'll need to edit the backend source code of your Kickstarter campaign..."

That line is not just suspicious — it is an admission.

Either they are lying to cover a scam, or they are literally saying they are going to hack Kickstarter.

Either way, yeah... no.

3. The Bot Moment: Comedy Meets Cybercrime

Here is the actual interaction that makes me truly wonder.

(BTW it is from email, so it is in reverse...)

Mar 26, 4:29 PM – scammer writes:

"Proves that I'm a bot as how? You are asked to provide the information accordingly for us to create an invoice for you which you don't... Please indicate Your first name, your last name, your state and city so we can proceed."

Mar 26, 4:20 PM – scammer writes again:

"Sorry? Can you elaborate?"

Mar 26, 4:17 PM – I wrote:

"You realize that this proves that you are a bot, don't you?"

Earlier that day, 8:13 AM:

"Hi Clark, but you don't indicate: Your first name, last name, purpose of payment and the amount..."



By this time I had reported the entire thread to Kickstarter, Lead Bank, and the REAL Jason Tagmire.

Undeterred, one day later, they hit me back with:

Mar 27, 10:09 AM:

"Hi Clark, We're done with the invoice creation, you can click the link below to accept the payments so we can proceed with obtaining the adequate tools needed and get started with your campaign success journey immediately."

▶ Still trying, even after being outed.

Of course, we never clicked the link. No telling what was on the other end — malware, phishing form, who knows.

But they had no hesitation throwing it out, even after being directly accused of being a bot.

📄 4. The Money Ask: Personal Bank Account, Wire Transfer Only

Then came the money.

Here is what they gave us — word for word:

- Name: Ibrahim Temitope Mikail
- Bank: Lead Bank
- Type: Personal Checking Account
- Routing: 101019644
- Account: 218255090222
- Location: Beaverton, OR

No business account. No invoice from a real company. Just a dude with a personal checking account asking for a wire transfer — and a vague promise of “tools.”

They even offered to send a contract agreement after the payment. Which is charmingly overconfident.

🔴 5. Kickstarter's Response: Too Little, Too Late



We did what you are supposed to do. We documented everything.
We contacted Kickstarter Trust & Safety.

Here is what they told us:

"Thanks for the report. Unfortunately, since this happened off-platform, we can't take action."

They confirmed there is no such thing as the Kickstarter Mentor Program, and that Jason Tagmire was not involved, despite what the scammers claimed.
They told us to mark the emails as spam and move on.

What they did not do:

- ❌ Issue a warning to other creators
- ❌ Alert the community to an ongoing impersonation scam
- ❌ Monitor domains like kickstartersupport.com

We shared names, emails, domains, links, and even banking information.
And were met with silence.
No apology. No ownership. No action.

If this happened on Amazon or eBay? It would be a front-page fraud case.

👤 6. The Domain That Should Have Set Off Alarms

The scammers used kickstartersupport.com — a domain anyone could register — and apparently, no one at Kickstarter was watching for that.

WHOIS Lookup:

- Domain: kickstartersupport.com
- Registered: 2024-06-21
- Country: Nigeria
- Registrar: eNom, LLC
- Name Servers: hkdns.host

Kickstarter has developers. They have staff. They have the budget.
There is no excuse not to monitor these.



They could have used:

- DNSTwist
- BrandShield
- DomainTools
- Namecheap Domain Watch

But they did not. And this scam got through.

🎯 7. They Challenged the Wrong Campaign

This scam was well-rehearsed.

They had fake names, real banks, copied pitch language, and just enough tech mumbo-jumbo to fool someone.

They were bold enough to name-drop a real creator and trick others into trusting them.

But they made one mistake:

They tried it on us.

And we do not let crap like this slide.

❤️ 8. A Personal Note

This was my first Kickstarter campaign — and it is not just some product or vanity project.

It is the launch platform for my life's work — a global documentary series called *Faire Wind & Song*.

After everything I have put into this, I find myself dealing with conflicting feelings — frustration, exhaustion, and frankly, a bit of betrayal.

The fact that scammers were able to get this far, using Kickstarter's name and real creators' reputations, without any consequence, leaves a bad taste.

And yet... we are still here.

Still sailing forward.

Still committed to telling stories that matter.

with host
kevin brauch

the
Thirsty
Traveler

📧 9. The Scam Continues (Yes, Even Now)

Despite all of this... they are still trying.

March 28, 2025 – 5:07 AM

From: *Intellectual Digital Solutions*

"Below is the agreement document... let us know if you any questions or concerns on it and if there's none you can proceed to input your signature and send us the copy so we can get started working on your project immediately..."

Also March 28, 2025 – 3:15 AM

From: *Jason Tagmire (FAKE)*

"I'm sending you this mail to follow up... you said you'll reach out to the team and report back to me... let me know what's going on."

After all this exposure?

Still sending Word docs. Still following up. Still in business.

Because no one has stopped them.

👉 10. If this helped you — help us back, join our mailing list!

This is what we're actually building:

🎬 *Faire Wind & Song* — A global expedition documentary series

🌐 Website: <https://fwas.us>

📺 Campaign: [Kickstarter — Faire Wind & Song](#)

We are filming around the world, on the water, in the kitchens, studios, and streets where real people share their music, food, and culture.

We are not scammers.

We are creators.

And we are going everywhere.

Make sure you stay tuned so you can come by and say hello when we are in a town near you — because we're going EVERYWHERE (gotta be near the ocean or a big river, of course 😊).

Cheers! Faire Wind & Song

Faire Wind & Song
SEASON ONE
QUEBEC to HAVANA!!!