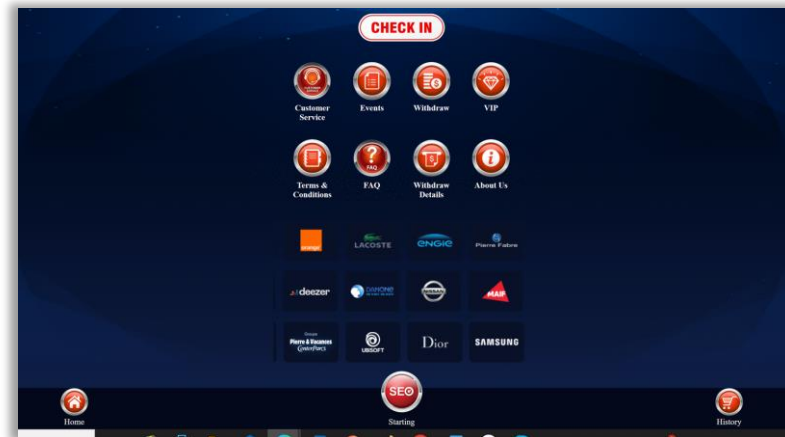
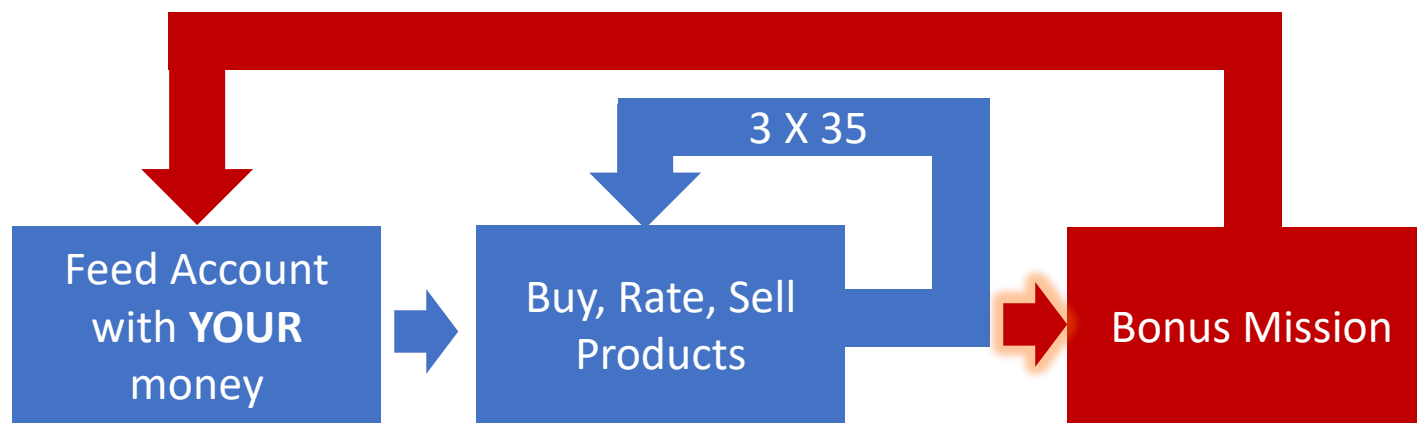


# The Artefact-App Job Scam



## THE BASIC PLAN

The basic plan is quite simple. As an “agent” of Artefact, you make your salary by going through a mindless loop in which you buy, rate and sell products. You rate every product a five-star, which is really the only SEO component of the job. This activity is broken into rounds of 35 products, and for beginners, you MUST complete three of these rounds in order to get paid. This is VERY important. Now, as you are cycling through the buy-rate-sell process as fast as your digits will permit, the account decreases in value as you buy, and restores its previous value when you sell. All is good, and the salary seems like a bargain. But then, when the product that is selected for your consideration by the software engine is more expensive than your balance, well, that’s when the excitement begins. It creates a negative balance, and in order to continue the agent must dip into their own wallet and clear that balance. And this is the very essence of the scam. You cannot move forward without clearing the balance, and you cannot get paid without completing all of your submissions, which amounts to 105 in the case shown here. So, the matter of how big that negative balance might become is one of GREAT interest.



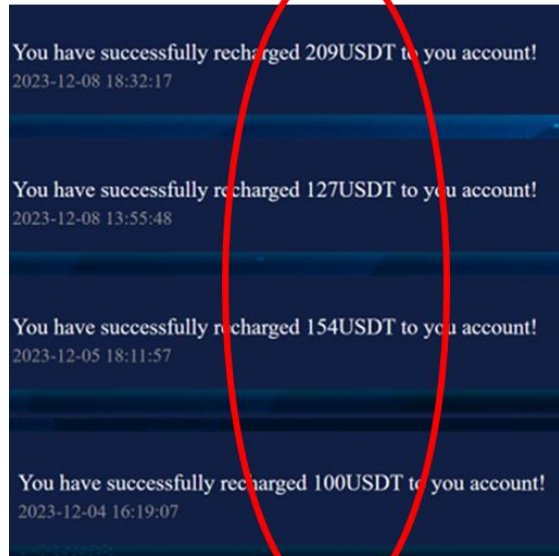
## THE BONUS MISSION SQUEEZE

We will cover the “onboarding” process later, but suffice it to say *almost nothing* is explained. The training focuses almost completely on helping the trainee set up a pipeline that enables them to withdraw USD from their own bank, convert it to BTC, and then convert that to USDT, which is what flows into your account – which, I must tell you, is under the *complete* control of a gestapo-like arm of Artefact called Customer Service. So, the BIG question is: how big do these negative balances become. Well, they progress. As the day moves along, and you complete your submissions, products continue to appear that inspire the next bonus mission. There is no clear logic to the specific amount of the negative balances, but they absolutely do increase, as if in lockstep with the size of your account – which I will remind you is almost entirely funded by the employee. And, here is the absolute brilliance of the scam: you never know how much the next overage product will cost. Let me be clear: I asked everyone at the company and NO ONE would answer *that* question, not even to give me a range. And so, as the day progresses and the amount of your own personal financial exposure mounts, you get sick to your stomach, because the only way you can get it back is by clearing the NEXT balance, and completing your submissions. They have YOUR money, and you can’t get it. It is a NASTY EXPERIENCE.

## SO, HOW MUCH? THE ARC OF MY NASTY DAY

On my first day, the trainer did something that was part of his able con artistry. He let me finish the day with just a few bonus missions, and they were relatively small. I got my money back out, and some confidence was built. But then came day 2. I had explained to my trainer (more on him later) that I needed this job because I was living on a fixed income that did not go very far. On the second day, the bonus missions immediately became painful to me, as you can see from the graphic, which is drawn directly from the Artefact site. When I got into my last of the three rounds, I had already put about \$600 in my account, and then they doubled it. At that point, I backed out and pleaded with the company to just let me take my money and move on. No way, Jose. I had to clear my balance and complete my submissions, all with the very high probability that I had at least one more bonus mission waiting in the weeds. But rules are rules. What rules? I never signed an employment contract with these people. When I asked them about taxes, they told me not to worry, their HR department would handle it. But I never heard from them. When I asked about the rules, I was told by the CS gestapo agent that they were in the company FAQs. How could I have missed it?

USDT 0 Empty Balance	USDT 0 Today's Profits
USDT -633.13 Total Balance	USDT 0 Bonus Amount



## SO, HOW MUCH Part II? WAS I RIGHT TO BE TERRIFIED?

When I received my \$633 negative balance, I still had quite a few more submissions in the offing. Earlier, when I had asked my trainer about the frequency of bonus missions I should expect on any given day, he said that they were entirely random and not to expect more than 2 in any given 3-round span. On day two, the \$633 deficit was already my *fifth* of that day. Then, I came across this post in Reddit, which was entitled the "Artefact Scam." This gentleman apparently had his balance balloon to \$20K. So, yes, I probably would have been forced into insolvency had I not stopped when I did. And my trainer-cum-boss was now clearly marked as an inveterate liar.



Flat-Psychology209 · 4 days ago

They catch you with their so called bonus deposits, they make you want to add your money to complete tasks and those tasks would have what they call 'bonus missions' you pay twice the amount in your account to clear them. Went from a \$300 deposit to having to pay \$20k USDT to get all the money earned and your out-of-pocket deposits.

↑ 1 ↓ Reply Share ...

[\(1\) Artefact-app.com : Scams \(reddit.com\)](https://www.reddit.com/r/Artefact-app.com)

# The Details

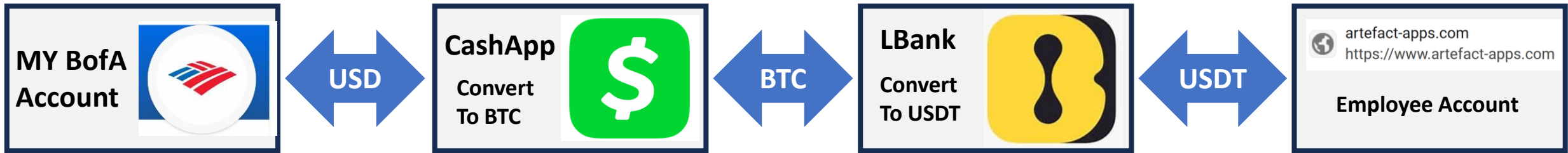


If you have made it this far, I am indebted to you, and no one would blame you for not going any further. But this was a slick, sick scam, and I owe it to posterity to record another level of detail. I will cover how I was recruited, my onboarding, some of the details about how the software functions, and just a bit more about the organization (such as it is). Off the top, let me just say this: there's a term in philosophy called *tautology*. It refers to a system of thought which, however flawed its basic premises might be, is entirely consistent from the standpoint of its internal logic. Artefact is a tautology if ever I've come across one. Everyone there is absolutely on script – a script, I hasten to add, designed to trap its prey.

## HOW THE HELL DID I GET HERE

I am 71 and need to make money. That's OK. I am healthy and active and reasonably alert. So, after taking some time off to write a book (which is still in the making), I have been proselytizing my resume all over the web. Thus far, nothing substantive has surfaced, though I've gotten quite a few nibbles. I am an instructional designer, and there are plenty of good, young ones out there. So, I remain part of the 3.7%. I have been recruited often, but mostly by the job scammers. I think I've seen everything. The shipping scammers, the personal assistant scammers, etc. So, when this opportunity came along, I was pretty certain of its status. But the guy who recruited me was tenacious, as well as extremely persuasive. I told him repeatedly he was probably a scammer, but this did not faze him in the least. I responded to an initial email, and then the chase was on. BTW: that email went missing from my Outlook inbox, an act I can assure you I had nothing to do with. But, I digress. Gary (that is the name he gave me) assured me that the opportunity was real, that I would make serious money, and that it didn't have the slightest tinge of scamhood. Then, he pulled at my heart strings by saying that he would get in deep trouble with his boss if I didn't succumb to his overtures, so finally I acquiesced. The salary was stated at 1600 per week, not what I was used to in the heart of my career, but VERY appealing to me now. Aside from the initial email, there were no further textual communications. Everything was communicated through his WhatsApp account. As I said earlier, our focus was on getting my banking pipeline established. There was no employment contract, no mention of anything HR-related, and nothing much about the company, except for what I bothered to ask him about. AND, no mention of the Bonus mission. That came only when I first encountered it online, as I was completing my first round of submissions under his tutelage. "Oh yeah, there's this thing called bonus missions. They're GREAT." It actually surprised me that our first training session turned out to be my first work assignment. Boom, there I was working, and the next day they would pay me a pro-rata 100 of my first week's salary. That was happy progress to me. Also, Gary took a lot of time to do the rapport thing. He showed me pics of his family and dog, and said that he was an immigrant from Malta, and that the money he was making with Artefact was helping him support not only his immediate family, but also his family back home. I Confess: I trusted him.

# The Payment Pipeline



For those interested in such things, I offer this flowchart. Truly, my main reason for thinking it may be pertinent to others is that it was entirely orchestrated by Gary, my trainer (and, as it turns out, my boss; but more on that in just a bit). LBank is a Hong Kong business, and from what I could gather, Artefact relies pretty heavily on them. Though it is self-explanatory ... I used my debit card to send USD to CashApp, where I converted it to Bitcoin (BTC), and from there I transferred it to my wallet at LBank, converted it again, this time to USDT (Tether), and then this currency was sent to Artefact's wallet, where Tether is the coin of the realm. When I asked Gary why they used crypto, he waived it off by saying that it was because Artefact was so international. In retrospect, this was a highly dubious statement, but I haven't thought much further about it. Perhaps there are deeper currents of corruption here.

## THE SOFTWARE

From an inside perspective, the Artefact scam is all about its software. For one thing, it is regarded with reverence – almost religious in nature – by the people I interacted with there. It is the governing force. What they could do was entirely dictated by what the software could do. And to them, its dominant trait was that it did everything under the guidance of random processes. You couldn't say anything about the sizes of the Bonus Missions because they were generated at random. The products you reviewed were shoved your way by the invisible hand of randomness. My conclusion, of course, is that this is nonsense, and simply offers a convenient rationale for not telling victims what they want to know about the Bonus Missions and their relative size. In fact, there *are* random processes in the software, but only within price ranges that are, themselves, meticulously precise and predatory. I am reverse-engineering from observed behavior now, but here goes: the review products are grouped by price, and then selected from within those groups at random, thus creating the impression of randomness. But entertain not the slightest doubt, when it comes time to push an account-busting product, there is nothing the least bit random going on.

Transaction	Amount
[Returns of principal][Hot Sale Security Electronic Fingerprint Key Cabinet Storage Box Wall Mounted Key For Safe Deposit Smart Key Box 2023-12-08 16:39:53	-150.00
[Returns of principal][Logitech MX Keys Illuminated Wireless Keyboard for Business & MX Master 3 Wireless Mouse for Business, Windows/Mac/Linux Logi Bolt USB Receiver, Bluetooth, Any Surface Tracking, QWERTY UK - Graphite 2023-12-08 16:39:41	-278.49
[Order earnings][Logitech MX Keys Illuminated Wireless Keyboard for Business & MX Master 3 Wireless Mouse for Business, Windows/Mac/Linux Logi Bolt USB Receiver, Bluetooth, Any Surface Tracking, QWERTY UK - Graphite 2023-12-08 16:39:41	-278.49
[Returns of principal][Logitech MX Keys Illuminated Wireless Keyboard for Business & MX Master 3 Wireless Mouse for Business, Windows/Mac/Linux Logi Bolt USB Receiver, Bluetooth, Any Surface Tracking, QWERTY UK - Graphite 2023-12-08 16:39:39	-278.49
[Returns of principal][Waterpik SF-04 Sonic Fusion 2.0 Professional Flossing Toothbrush, Electric Toothbrush and Water Flosser Combo In One, Black 2023-12-08 16:39:21	+178.00

## THE JONESTOWN CHAT GROUP

While I was still emoting a glimmer of enthusiasm about my new gig, Gary proudly introduced me into a chat group that he insisted would provide me with all the human support needed to ensure my success. It was another singularly weird experience. At first, I thought their effusively friendly exteriors could be leveraged for filling in some of the bigger gaps, like how much was I going to need to support Artefact's Bonus Mission habit. But I got the same-old: You just can't know because the system is completely random. How about a range? Stone-faced silence. Then I watched as they tried to cuddle several newbies, as those new hires would meekly ask: What's a Bonus Mission? Of course, it was the most wondrous of inventions. There it was again, the script, and completely and devotedly adhered to. Then, when I started to realize how duped I really was, and made some show of public hostility, they directed me to get with "my superior." I heard this phrase at least a dozen times. Talk to your *superior*. Who in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century talks like that? And who were they referring to? Finally, it dawned on me, and I had to confirm it by asking, that they were referring to Gary. May I be forgiven for thinking of this kool aid sipping group as window dressing for suckers (like me).

Transaction	
[Mission]Hot Sale Security Electronic Fingerprint Key Cabinet Storage Box Wall Mounted Key For Safe Deposit Smart Key Box 2023-12-08 18:39:53	-1350.46
[Return of principal]Logitech MX Keys Illuminated Wireless Keyboard for Business & MX Master 3 Wireless Mouse for Business, Windows/Mac/Linux Logi Bolt USB Receiver, Bluetooth, Any Surface Tracking, QWERTY UK - Graphite 2023-12-08 18:39:41	+278.49
[Order earnings]Logitech MX Keys Illuminated Wireless Keyboard for Business & MX Master 3 Wireless Mouse for Business, Windows/Mac/Linux Logi Bolt USB Receiver, Bluetooth, Any Surface Tracking, QWERTY UK - Graphite 2023-12-08 18:39:41	+2.78
[Mission]Logitech MX Keys Illuminated Wireless Keyboard for Business & MX Master 3 Wireless Mouse for Business, Windows/Mac/Linux Logi Bolt USB Receiver, Bluetooth, Any Surface Tracking, QWERTY UK - Graphite 2023-12-08 18:39:35	-278.49
[Return of principal]Waterpik SF-04 Sonic-Fusion 2.0 Professional Flossing Toothbrush, Electric Toothbrush and Water Flosser Combo In One, Black 2023-12-08 18:39:21	+178.00

### My very last review transactions at Artefact

## ISABELLE ALICE

Last but not least is the girl who makes the trains run on the right track. Customer Service. You have to go to them (her, actually) for anything and everything. To start a new round. To confirm that you've paid down your negative balances. And, penultimately, to be permitted to remove *anything* from YOUR account. When I first started to ask her for things, she always referred to me as "dear" and "sweetie." Strange enough for you? Right before I made my last payment for the 209 BM, I spent several minutes challenging her on whether there would be more bonus missions in my near future, and, like Gary, she insisted that, notwithstanding the gods of randomness, it was very unlikely. But, oh once I got my next one, and practically begged her to let me withdraw MY funds, she defiantly told me that she couldn't do a thing for me because that was just how the software worked. Apparently, the fleecing was ordained by God.

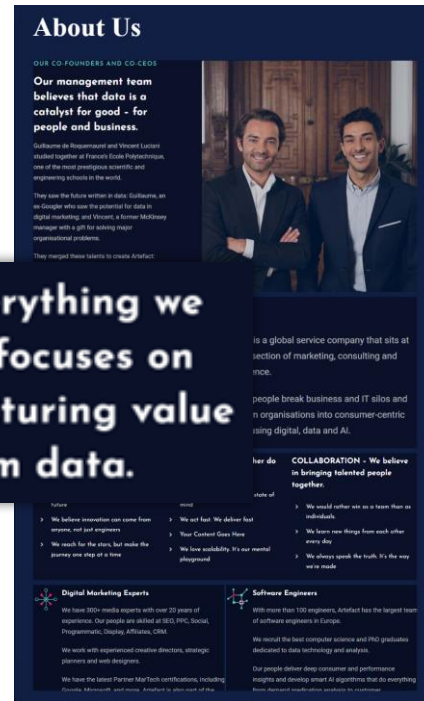
## GARY

Ah Gary, warm-hearted chap from Malta. Early on, he brought the most egregious element of the script into the glaring sunlight. When I got my first bonus mission, he congratulated me like I had just discovered penicillin. Then he got others to join in, forming a chorus from across the chattosphere. There is a 2010 British movie – very, very dark – in which a collection of young, lower-class citizens are recruited into a group that is brain washed into providing body parts to wealthy Brits upon demand. It is called *Never Let Me Go*. When one of the members is selected for an operation, out of which she will lose a kidney, or some such, the group gathers around to joyously congratulate her. This movie popped into my head when I got my first bonus mission. As the last few hours of my Artefact tenure spun out, and I was completely focused on how I could recover my money, things grew very raw between Gary and I. But he never veered from his singular focus on getting me to go fetch my money like a good doggie. Before spending my final \$209, he assured me that it was my last BM. Then, no sooner had I paid up and resumed the aimless product review process but that I got my \$633 bonus mission, which is circled above, a price towering a \$1000 above any other product in the list.

# Odds and Ends

## BUNKUM SQUARED

Naturally, I had an interest in learning more about Artefact. After all, for a few brief moments I thought they were actually hiring me (not having their way with me). Then, I found this ditty on their website. Not sure about the doughty young raconteurs shown here, but I did not see much evidence of Harvard MBA style competence at Artefact, just the obedient tautology referred to above. But the statement shown here is laughable, another token of fraud. And I actually had an early argument with Gary about this. When my nostrils were starting to flare, I challenged him about the legitimacy of his organization and he asserted that they provided valuable consumer preference feedback to their customers. What? Recall that the process of reviewing products in their software is to be done as quickly as fingers can fly and the rating is *always* a 5. Not a whole lot of grist for discriminant statistical analysis, is there? Gary was probably just repeating something he was told to think.



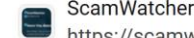
BelAir832 · 20 hr. ago

I just fall for this a day ago. I lost almost 600\$. It sounds so real and I didn't pay attention about small details. I really regret this

↑ 2 ↓ Reply Share ...

## MORE SAD TALES FROM THE FIELD

In just the few days since my own sad tale reached its denouement, there have been several new postings on the topic, including this one, which appeared in the same Reddit section as the \$20K example. Reading her post, which sounds so much like mine (only 99.9% shorter), it makes me wonder how does Artefact declare the income when dispirited scamees like us retreat from the scene. Also, the search results below show the attention that Artefact is drawing from scam detector sites. It was my impression from my experience of both Gary's urgent pursuit of me and the high level of new employee coaching activity I witnessed in the Jonestown chat group that my case is probably at the spear-tip of a new Artefact campaign.



<https://scamwatcher.org/artefact-app-com-review>

### 4 worrisome facts about artefact-app.com - ScamWatcher

Web Nov 24, 2023 · Such promises are ludicrous, and they show that **Artefact-app.com** is a suspected scam you should avoid! Beware! **Artefact-app.com** Customer Support. **Artefact-app.com** allows you to contact them through telephone contact and email. They do not ...



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