

Safe Web Browsing

HTTP & HTTPS:

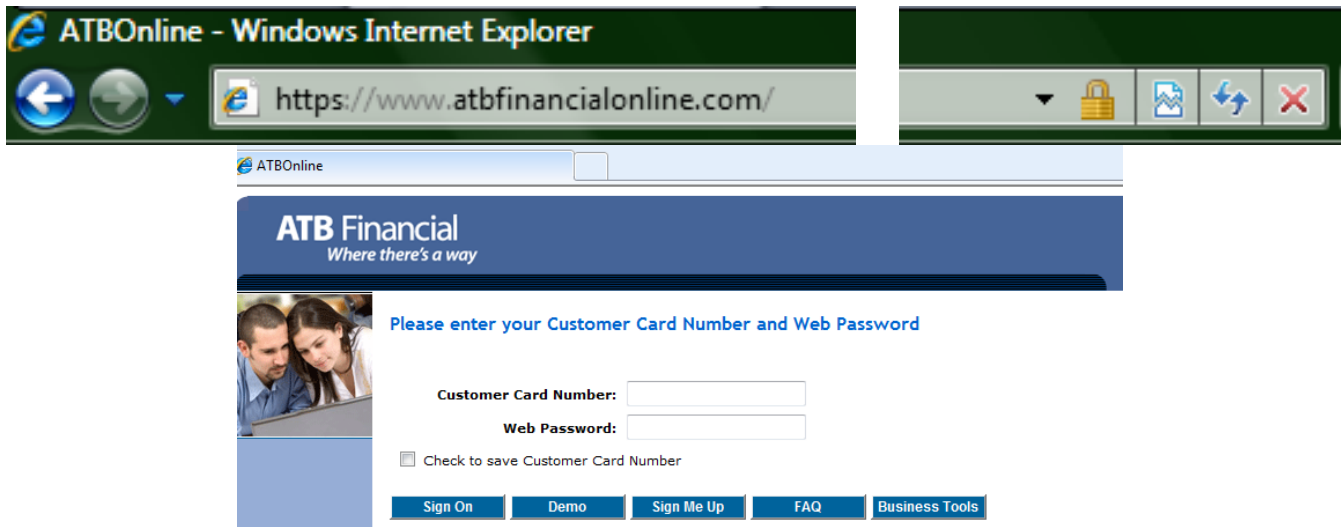
Hypertext Transfer Protocol – the most common internet communication format. There are strict rules as to how and what can be sent over the internet using HTTP and a number of other protocols.

The S at the end of HTTPS stands for Secure and signifies that information sent or received is encrypted to ensure that only the two end points can read the information.

General rule: If a webpage is asking for personal information, like a bank account number or even your telephone number, only do so if the URL is HTTPS.

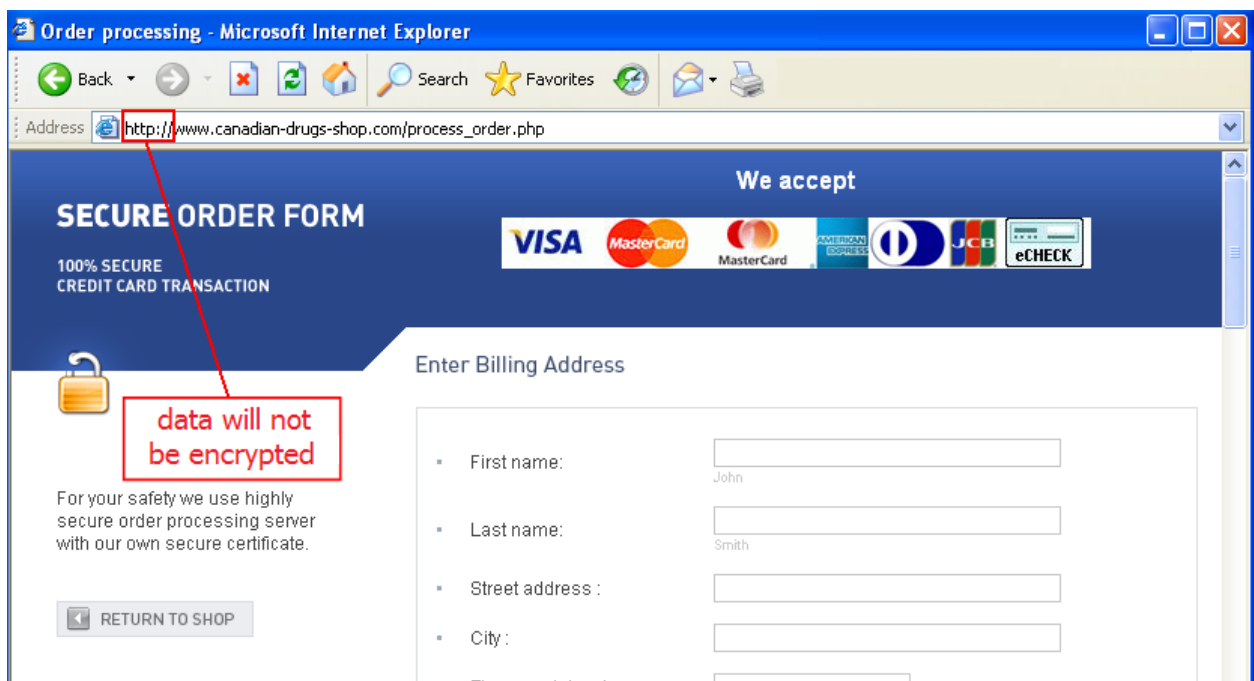
Secure:

Notice that most Web Browsers show a lock symbol when you are using a valid and secure site.



Non-Secure:

This page is collecting personal information but is not HTTPS, therefore it is possible for others to see your information.




Security Certificates:

Any site that uses HTTPS is required to use a security Certificate. This certificate is used to match against the information in the Certificate Registry as a means of proving that the website is the real website and not a fake website intent on getting your information.

An unrecognized or invalid Security Certificate will produce errors much like this:

Google Chrome




**The site's security certificate is not trusted!**

You attempted to reach [redacted] but the server presented a certificate issued by an entity that is not trusted by your computer's operating system. This may mean that the server has generated its own security credentials, which Google Chrome cannot rely on for identity information, or an attacker may be trying to intercept your communications. You should not proceed, **especially** if you have never seen this warning before for this site.

[▶ Help me understand.](#)

Internet Explorer

**There is a problem with this website's security certificate.**

The security certificate presented by this website was not issued by a trusted certificate authority. The security certificate presented by this website was issued for a different website's address.

Security certificate problems may indicate an attempt to fool you or intercept any data you send to the server.

We recommend that you close this webpage and do not continue to this website.

- [Click here to close this webpage.](#)
- [Continue to this website \(not recommended\).](#)
- [More information](#)