PERSONAL SECURITY / LINK CHECK / 18 OCT 2026

A familiar name.
A different destination.

A familiar-looking shop name appears before the destination. See what the address reveals, what needs checking and how to respond.

08	01	03
STRUCTURE CHECKS	PATTERN DETECTED	VERIFICATION STEPS

Follow the destination, not the familiar name

```
https://shop.example.com@account-check.example/verify
```

THE HOST NAMED IN THIS ADDRESS

account-check.example

The name before @ sits in a separate field. The path after the hostname identifies a location on that host.

BEFORE @

shop.example.com
Familiar-looking text, not the destination.

AFTER THE HOSTNAME

/verify
A path name; it does not prove verification is genuine.

LINK STRUCTURE REVIEWED

The hostname your browser would use is account-check.example.

Text before @ is not the destination

A link can place a familiar name before @ while opening an entirely different host.

Use the official app or a website address you already know. Verify the request through a separate, trusted channel.

LINK CHECK / EVIDENCE & COVERAGE

See exactly what was checked.

Counts are observations, not a risk score. “Not detected” means this rule did not match the address text; it is not a verdict that the link is safe.

Text before @

REVIEW

A user-information field appears before the hostname. Its contents are omitted here.

Unencrypted HTTP

NOT DETECTED

The address requests HTTPS. No connection or certificate was tested.

Internationalised hostname

NOT DETECTED

Checks hostname labels for the xn-- form used for internationalised names.

IP address destination

NOT DETECTED

Checks the parsed hostname for an IPv4 or IPv6 address.

Non-standard port

NOT DETECTED

The parsed address uses the protocol's default port.

Long hostname

NOT DETECTED

Flags more than four dot-separated hostname labels; this is not an ownership check.

Known shortener pattern

NOT DETECTED

Matches six common shortener hostnames only. Other redirects remain unknown.

Encoded or hidden characters

NOT DETECTED

Checks path and query encoding, plus selected invisible or direction-control characters.

WHAT REMAINS UNKNOWN

HTTPS and a familiar-looking name do not prove a site is trustworthy. This check does not open links, follow redirects, inspect content or consult reputation lists. No listed warning signs does not mean safe.

METHOD REFERENCES

MDN: how a URL identifies its hostname

MDN: the username field before @

References explain URL parsing. They have not assessed this fictional link.

LINK CHECK / YOUR NEXT MOVE

Turn uncertainty into a plan.

1. Pause the request

Do not use the link to sign in, send money or provide a code. Open the official app or a saved address you already trust.

Done when: You have reached the service through your own trusted route.

2. Verify independently

Check whether the same request appears in the official account. If needed, contact the organisation using a previously known number, not details from the message.

Done when: The request and destination have been confirmed through a separate channel.

3. Act through the official service

Complete a genuine task inside the official app or account. If the request cannot be confirmed, leave it and use the service's reporting option.

Done when: You have handled or reported the request without relying on the original link.

Already clicked or shared something?

Opened the link only?

Close the page. Do not enter information or download anything. Opening a page alone does not establish that your device was compromised.

Shared a password or sign-in code?

Use the official service from a trusted device. Change the exposed password, review recovery details and revoke unfamiliar sessions. Change it anywhere it was reused.

Sent money or shared payment details?

Contact your bank or payment provider through its official app or a known number. Explain what happened and ask about available next steps.

Installed software or allowed remote access?

Stop using the affected device for banking or recovery. If remote access is active, disconnect it from networks and contact trusted IT support.

Bring clarity to your next decision.

Explore all six personal checks at vantyris.com/personal

Purchases are currently unavailable. This is a fictional example; no check was run on your information.