

“NUISANCE/ROBOTIC” (SCAM?) PHONE CALLS®

by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida – August 20, 2025

These daze most of us have become victims of almost-never-ending nuisance/robotic phone calls trying to sell us anything and everything and they have become a source of major irritation. Well, at my age of 81, almost any phone call I get is better than no calls at all! So, of late, instead of being irritated by the endless barrage of these calls, I had decided to enliven my day by having some fun with such calls. So the following describes just how I had planned to do that.

To begin with, most modern-day phones, TV's, etc. have “caller recognition” capabilities that will display the phone number of an incoming call and/or the name of a company that is the source of the call. Obviously, when your phone rings and you see this info on your phone, TV screen, or Iphone, if you don't recognize the number, etc., you have the option of first answering the call and then immediately “hanging up” or - of course you can also simply let the call “ring out” until the originator hangs up and you do not acknowledge the call at all!

Frankly, these daze it seems that no matter what measures are taken by each of us as individuals to completely block incoming nuisance/robotic calls, they will keep coming! So, in line with what I have stated in the above introductory statement, at my age of 81, I should be grateful that I get any phone calls from anyone – at all; and, when incoming calls are readily identifiable as nuisance/robotic calls, what the heck, I answer them anyway and then try to have some fun and I answer these calls very emphatically in one way or another as follows (as just a few examples):

-HI! SHAKEY'S PIZZA! HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

-HI! SHAKEY'S PIZZA! ARE YOU CALLING ABOUT THE LUNCH SPECIALS?

-HI! THANKS FOR CALLING STARLIGHT FORD! WE'VE GOT A CAR JUST FOR YOU!

When I have voiced these greetings in response to nuisance/robotic calls, some callers have apologized and stated they thought they were calling “Daniel”! But, I just now answered a nuisance call and used one of the above lines but the caller said they knew it was “Daniel”! I then concluded that we now have a new worry related to “AI”; amongst other potentially-devilish things related to AI, it is “stealing” voice profiles! As such, **FORGET THE “FUN”** that I just described! In fact, TO PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY AND PRIVACY, DO NOT ANSWER ANY INCOMING CALLS AND/OR HANG UP YOUR PHONE IMMEDIATELY WHEN THE NUMBER AND SOURCE OF AN INCOMING CALL IS NOT RECOGNIZED! As had been anticipated and predicted since the very beginning of AI exploitation, while being innovative, it also has some potentially very dangerous implications as I have just experienced – ID & voice theft, etc.!

