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**The BBB is a Scam!**

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#1

03-21-2008, 03:19 AM

[kfitch27](#)   
Junior Member

Join Date: Mar 2008  
Posts: 2

## The BBB is a Scam!

I just thought I would vent on the BBB. I am a small Internet company that is selling some home made ceramics and wanted to get BBB certified. I am not listing my company name so you think I am just trying to get some exposure for my company. So I did some investigation on them and was amazed to find out some facts:

**Fact:** The BBB is a PRIVATE company and not a government agency like they want people to think they are. As a matter of fact if you file a complaint against a company with the BBB, they cannot do anything to get your money back or resolve the problem as they have no power as a PRIVATE company.

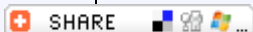
**Fact:** In order to get listed as a good site with the BBB you have to PAY a large fee to get listed. **I was quoted over \$1000 per year to get listed.** This to me is hypocritical on their part as they are always telling people don't pay for this and that, etc. So remember next time you search the BBB you are not getting the best companies, you are getting the richest companies.

**Fact:** The BBB wants everyone to have the impression that if a company is not listed on their site then they are not a reputable company. As I listed in the fact above; the truth is that if a company is not listed they didn't want to pay the large fees.

So I guess I am not a reputable company according to the BBB. \$1000 per year would more than likely absorb all of my profits, so I guess I lose the next time someone asks me if I am a member of the BBB. I have totally lost confidence in the BBB and thought people should know what they truly are. I know next time if I want to find out who the richest companies are I know that I can go to the BBB.

Feel free to check out my facts for yourself and you will see it is all true. I understand they have costs to maintain but how much do they really need.

Correct me if I am wrong, but if they have 1,000,000 companies registered (could be more) and are charging \$1000 per year for each. (some companies pay much more than \$1000) **That is \$1 Billion dollars per year that the BBB is collecting in fees.** How much profit is the BBB really making? Do they have stock offerings? something I may want to get in on lol



kfitch27

#2

03-28-2008, 03:04 AM

[planter1](#)

Junior Member

Join Date: Apr 2007  
Posts: 5

**Re: The BBB is a Scam!**

I have been trying to tell people this forever, that they are just a private company and not a government agency. It is sad that people think of the BBB as their savior, when in reality they cannot do anything to help the consumer. You have a better chance with Burger King helping to get your money back than the BBB. What a deception they have brought to the consumers. On top of all of that they charge these enormous fees to get your company listed because they have used this deception on the consumer to only benefit their pocket book.

I always check companies with Web Assured as they do not charge the large fees as the BBB to the companies and they have even a tougher screening than the BBB to get approved. The best thing about Web Assured is they also back their approved sites with "Liability Protection" which will pay you your money back if any of their sites they approved have issues. The BBB does not even back their own sites like this. So next time you are looking for a good company check if they are Web Assured, NOT BBB approved.



planter1

#3

03-28-2008, 11:51 AM

[CowboyJimmy](#)

Senior Member

Join Date: Jul 2005  
Posts: 141

**Re: The BBB is a Scam!**

Both of you are idiots!

The BBB is a non profit org that takes Millions if not Billions of \$ of work load off of the AG, FBI and FTC.  
If not for the BBB WE would ALL be getting taxed more!

That's why if you go to EVERY AG website in the USA you will notice they recommend going to the BBB to research a business as well as file a complaint BEFORE you attempt to go to the AG..

Also the BBB meets monthly with the AG and many of the regulatory agencies to help prevent fraud and scams.

They also submit press releases to the local news stations to warn consumers about scams..

You are coming on scam.com to B\*tch about the fact that you can't afford to spend the money on a non-profit org's service.

Get a real job and investigate the truth before you post vomit from your mouth.. What you read on the internet and scam sites like this ARE NOT ALWAYS TRUE..



CowboyJimmy

#4

03-28-2008, 12:02 PM

[CowboyJimmy](#)

Senior Member

Join Date: Jul 2005

Posts: 141



**Re: The BBB is a Scam!**

Quote:

Originally Posted by [kfitch27](#)

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Kfitch,

You are completely wrong,

The BBB has several different programs and not all charge that much!

They are a NON-Profit org and you can research their non profit status and public records.

The BBB is the ONLY organization that actually DOES do a background check on their members.

You should be more critical of the Chambers of Commerce or NARI or the Home Builders whom let everyone in no matter if they are a "Good Apple" or a "Bad Apple" and DO NOT do a background check on their members

Be critical of the Yellowpages companies and other advertising agencies, radio and TV stations whom allow their advertisers to advertise deceptively and illegally.

I can provide many examples to support my claims.

If your "so called" research is from [www.rippoffreport.com](http://www.rippoffreport.com) please realize that NOTHING that the owner of that website says is a FACT. That guy uses that website to extort money from business owners and bash's the BBB in the process.

That guy says that Al Copone started the BBB, This is completely wrong. The former CEO and President of Coke a Cola help start the BBB in the early 1900's and his name is Samuel C Dobbs.



CowboyJimmy

#5

03-28-2008, 01:31 PM



[nomaxim](#)  
Archaeologist

Join Date: Jan 2007  
Location: Stow, Ohio  
Posts: 832



**Re: The BBB is a Scam!**

As stated the BBB is a non-profit volunteer organization (as far as joining is concerned) that operates in both the US and Canada.

They work as a mediator in disputes between consumers and merchants. They have no legal authority anywhere. The idea is to use the BBB before you have to resort to criminal/court resolutions to a problem. they also rate business's on how said business handles complaints by consumers. And that database of business's is the largest in the world.

If a problem with a merchant goes as far as to involve the courts, credit card companies and such. Then you filing a complaint with the BBB shows that you tried, in good faith, to resolve the problem. Depending on the circumstances such a complaint can help you in a dispute involving a charge-back or even in legal litigations.

The BBB does charge a membership fee to members in order to pay it's staff and maintain the websites and databases.

[Overview of the BBB in Canada](#)

Quote:

The Better Business Bureau first started in the United States in 1912 and in Canada in 1935. Today there are over 170 bureau and branch offices in Canada and The United States with the international headquarters located at the Council of Better Business Bureaus Inc. in Arlington, Virginia.

The Canadian Council of Better Business Bureaus (CCBBB), established in June of 1966, is the coordinating and licensing body of the Better Business Bureau (BBB) system in Canada. The BBB is a not-for-profit, public service organization financed by the private business sector with local Bureaus serving communities and marketplaces across Canada.

Good business starts with trust. Without that trust the relationship between buyer and seller is undermined and over time the marketplace and our economy suffers. Forward thinking business leaders have always understood this and for 75 years they have helped create and support Better Business Bureaus in Canada to define and promote the standards of excellence that set the best businesses apart from the rest.

The BBB promotes trust in the marketplace in several important ways. It collects complaint histories and other information about businesses and provides consumers with unbiased reliability reports to better enable them in their purchasing decisions.

The BBB also evaluates businesses against objective standards, permitting only those businesses that meet and uphold those standards to join in supporting the BBB mission.

When disputes arise, as they can in even the best of business relationships, the BBB offers impartial dispute resolution services to solve problems fast and fairly in a way that helps to preserve a healthy relationship between a business and its customer.

In 2005 Canadian BBBs provided consumers with over 2.3 million company Reliability Reports and

helped resolve over 14,000 complaints. The Better Business Bureau is unique because of its position of neutrality and its outstanding history of service.

As with any success story, there are imitators, but none have the stringent operating and objective evaluation standards of the BBB and none that have a comparable history or reputation for integrity and reliable information.

**NOTE:**

<http://welcome.bbb.org/>, dot org is reserved for non-profit organizations.

A good example of a BBB press release, [Absolute Electronics Website is Duplicated by Scammer](#)



Been scammed - [Internet Crime Complaint Center \(IC3\), ic3.gov](#)

Last edited by nomaxim : 03-28-2008 at 01:41 PM.



nomaxim

#6

03-28-2008, 09:21 PM


[CowboyJimmy](#) 

Senior Member

Join Date: Jul 2005  
Posts: 141

**Re: The BBB is a Scam!**

Quote:

Originally Posted by **nomaxim** 

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Thank you Prof,

at least someone on this sites does alittle homework before posting on this site..



CowboyJimmy

#7

05-16-2008, 01:34 AM

[kfitich27](#)

Junior Member

Join Date: Mar 2008

Posts: 2

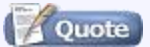


**Re: The BBB is a Scam!**

Anyone can state they are a non-profit. It appears Cowboy Jimmy has some of those stock offerings with the BBB. I do not dispute that most of what the BBB does is good, but as Nomaxim also confirms the BBB CANNOT make a decision on the outcome of a complaint as many people think they can. So I am right, as Cowboy has stated; "takes Millions if not Billions of \$ of work load off of the AG, FBI and FTC." Well the BBB is collecting that money back in fees from businesses like mine. So now I as the business has to charge more so it all comes back to the consumer anyways. To top it all off the BBB will not even be able to get the consumers money back anyways. They are not a government agency, so I then have to go to the AG, FTC or another government agency at the end. So the BBB collected billions of dollars (non-profit I may add) for the consumer only be mediated and no resolve.

Anyone can start a Web site and say they are a consumer advocate or protection agency such as the BBB. Then make people think they are part of the government to gain the consumrs confidence. Charge money to businesses to put a logo on their store front or Web site to only mediate cases by complaining consumers. I will be CEO and take a \$30 Million salary a year and write off all my other expenses to the business and say I am a "non-profit" organization. The consumer will think I am great (until they have to use my service and find out that I cannot do anything for them but put a bad mark on the business) But I am viewed as a god send because "I am for the consumer" and I attend government meetings at the FTC.

I admit I am being harsh, but tell me one thing I said is not true. DO YOUR RESEARCH COWBOY as it appears you have some kind of stake in the BBB I am feeling you are not wanting to share.



kfitch27

#8

05-16-2008, 03:30 AM

[Shippou](#)

419 Scambaiter

Join Date: Apr 2008  
Location: Indiana, USA  
Posts: 78



**Re: The BBB is a Scam!**

The BBB is 501(c)(6) non profit business (not charity), but there are a few things fishy.  
<http://www.ripoffreport.com/reports/...off0001343.htm>

I currently can not find their financial filings that are mandatory for public inspection.  
<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-tege/eotopick03.pdf>

Their legal name is *Council of Better Business Bureaus INC*

Also, I can not even find their articles of incorporation, which is also another mandatory public record for a 501(c)

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- \*Government Grants - <http://www.grants.gov>
- \*Government Jobs - <http://www.usajobs.gov>
- \*Work at Home Businesses - <http://www.at-homeworks.com/ideas.htm>
- \*Internet Home Businesses - <http://entrepreneurs.about.com/od/ho...oneyonline.htm>



Shippou

#9

05-18-2008, 05:58 PM


mariaa

Posts: n/a

**Re: The BBB is a Scam!**

If they are a scam then why do you care to get listed with them???

Quote:

Originallv Posted by **kfitch27** 

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mariaa

#10

04-10-2009, 07:29 AM

[punkinkng](#)

Junior Member

Join Date: Apr 2009

Posts: 1

**Re: The BBB is a Scam!**

Let's see if this changes any of your minds...

I own a roofing company in the United States. The owner of the city's BBB is on my payroll. I pay the BBB a yearly fee to show that I have been in business longer than I have been. I have been in business less than one year, but that scares a lot of consumers when there are a lot of competitors who have been around much longer, so I pay the BBB to show that I have been in business for more than 10 years.

As for the poster "Meriel" everyone else who would ask: "Why do you care about being part of the BBB?"

Most consumers swear by the BBB as the source for credibility. If you were comparing companies to do business with, I assume you would start with the BBB as well. The BBB is the most welcomed endorsement for most companies- especially when advertising on the internet. Most people automatically assume that everything on the internet is a SCAM, and look to the BBB for any sort of reassurance.