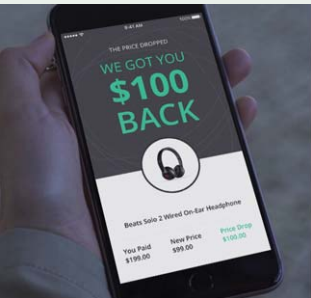


Wireless&Cashless

By Michael Liedtke



Credit card treasure hunt

Credit cards carry more hidden treasures than just cashback rewards or airline and hotel points.

A new iPhone app, Sift, will pore through the fine print of credit card policies to find commonly overlooked benefits such as extended product warranties, rental car insurance and theft protection.

The free app also will monitor credit-card purchases to retrieve refunds from merchants that offer them when they lower the price on an item soon after a purchase. The app promises to file some claims automatically, but in many cases you'll still have to do that work after receiving a notification that you're eligible.



Sift requires your email address and the types of cards you have, such as Citi Double Cash or Capital One VentureOne. The bank alone isn't enough, as benefits vary. Sift says the app works with nearly 90 percent of cards issued in the U.S.

To minimize security concerns, the app asks for only the last four digits of each card so it can scan digital receipts to monitor transactions for potential benefits. You'll need to have receipts emailed to you, something increasingly common even for purchases made offline. Sift is working on a way to add paper receipts for tracking.

A version for Android phones also is coming.