

Is mercurynews.com legit? TrustSniffer's high-trust assessment: 90/100

mercurynews.com

Verdict

90

OUT OF 100

HIGH TRUST

mercurynews.com appears legitimate.

Our checks found nothing pointing to fraud. Ordinary care still applies when you pay or sign in.

Not Scam

Low Risk

Assessed 2026-08-11 by automated analysis. Classification confidence 75%.

What this site appears to be

Homepage/article index for The Mercury News (regional news publisher). Contains navigation to sections, headlines, subscription/login prompts, cookie/consent banner and standard publisher content.

Evidence status and limitations

- Evidence completeness: UNKNOWN
- The real-world operator identity was not independently verified.
 - Module-level completeness metadata is unavailable for this legacy report.

At a glance

The checks that decide most of this verdict.

Malware engines	None flagged it VirusTotal	CLEAR
Google Safe Browsing	Not listed Google	CLEAR
Abuse reports on the host	2% confidence AbuseIPDB, 2 reports; shared hosting inflates reports	CLEAR
Domain age	30 years old Registered history	CLEAR
Web archive	Archived since 1998 5000 snapshots	CLEAR
Certificate	Encrypted connection Issued by YE2	NOTED

The page as captured

No screenshot is retained for this report.

Key findings

- Automated classification: Not Scam.
- Domain age: more than 10 years (registration continuity).
- Public web-archive history exists since 1998.
- VirusTotal and Google Safe Browsing had no flags for this domain; its hosting IP carries AbuseIPDB reports below the confidence level TrustSniffer treats as a flag.

Full analysis

Overview

The Mercury News is a regional news publishing website presenting Bay Area reporting across news, crime and public safety, sports, business, entertainment, opinion, events, real estate, and lifestyle. Its apparent business model combines editorial content with advertising, sponsored content, classifieds, newsletters, subscriptions, and account-based access.

Scam/Impersonation Risk

No confirmed phishing, impersonation, malicious-domain, or other contradictory indicators were observed. The homepage presents a coherent local-news publication model, with standard editorial navigation, consent controls, subscription prompts, and login functionality rather than an anomalous financial or cryptocurrency proposition. Runtime testing did record hidden forms and substantial page changes after interaction, but no external password form, wallet connection, clipboard manipulation, cloaking, or wallet-drainer behavior was identified; these observations are best treated as implementation and advertising/consent complexity rather than evidence of impersonation. A small number of abuse reports relate to shared Automattic infrastructure, so they do not establish site-specific abuse.

EVIDENCE

- The homepage is titled “The Mercury News - Bay Area news, sports, business, entertainment, lifestyle and commentary” and contains news, sports, business, entertainment, lifestyle, and commentary content.
- The site's domain was registered in 1996 and is approximately 30 years old.
- Historical records contain 5,000 archive snapshots spanning 1998–2014, with 17 years tracked.
- Runtime testing identified hidden forms in both evaluated runs, while recording no external password forms, wallet-provider activity, clipboard writes, or cloaking.

Regulatory Verification Notes

The available content is consistent with an established news publisher, not a financial-services platform requiring a trading or investment licence. The site identifies itself as The Mercury News, but the real-world operator identity is not independently verified by the supplied evidence. No specific regulatory licence or registration number is presented in the available page material; this is a limited disclosure point rather than evidence of a scam. A contextual broker-reputation check returned no match, but that result is not a legal or

licensing determination. The clean reputation findings, long registration history, established traffic footprint, known registrar, and valid transport encryption collectively support an apparently legitimate operating profile.

EVIDENCE

- The domain is registered through GoDaddy Corporate Domains, LLC, with the recorded organization MediaNews Group.
- The site is served from AS2635, operated by AUTOMATTIC - Automattic, Inc, US.
- The site's TLS certificate is issued by YE2, uses domain validation (DV), and is valid to 2026-11-08.
- The homepage provides subscription, newsletter-signup, and login forms alongside standard cookie-consent and privacy controls.

What to Verify Next

Before credential or payment interactions, independently confirm the publisher's corporate identity through a trusted offline or independently sourced business channel. Review the applicable subscription terms, cancellation and refund provisions, and payment-dispute protections before committing funds. Official support and contact channels should also be confirmed through an independently obtained source rather than relying solely on page content.

EVIDENCE

- The homepage exposes subscription and login paths that can involve account or payment information.
- The homepage displays consent-management language covering advertising, analytics, personalization, and third-party processing.
- The available page material does not supply a specific licence or registration number for independent regulatory confirmation.

Summary Verdict

Available evidence is consistent with an established, apparently legitimate website with a high-trust, low-risk posture. The classification is well supported by convergence across the site's coherent publisher identity, mature web presence, clean threat findings, and technically normal operation, while independent confirmation of the real-world operator remains outstanding.

Infrastructure Integrity

The site is hosted by AUTOMATTIC - Automattic, Inc, in the United States, and resolves through a single observed likely origin rather than a separately identified edge network. Automattic's established hosting environment is a mitigating infrastructure signal, although hosting protection alone does not prove operator legitimacy.

Closing Assessment

Ordinary browsing is proportionate to the assessed posture; independent merchant-identity, subscription-policy, and payment-protection checks should be completed before submitting credentials or making paid commitments.

Written analysis generated 2026-08-11 by the TrustSniffer Analysis Engine from the evidence in this report.

What the analysis found

No rule findings contributed to this verdict.

Signals weighed against the site

- AbuseIPDB: 2 reports on hosting IP 192.0.66.2 (Automattic, Inc, Content Delivery Network), 2% confidence. The reports are attributed to shared infrastructure, not specifically to this website.

Identity verification

Status	UNVERIFIED
Identity score	30/100
Identity verification confidence	50%

- No on-site identity signals detected

Identity verification measures whether the site can be independently connected to a real-world brand or person. It is separate from the classification confidence.

What TrustSniffer observed

First-party facts recorded during the assessment of mercurynews.com.

- The request stayed on mercurynews.com. It was not redirected to another domain. CLEAR
- Registration is published under GoDaddy Corporate Domains, LLC. CLEAR
- DNS for this domain is served by awsdns-63.net, across 4 name servers. NOTED
- The registration is paid up to 2027-08-18. NOTED
- The earliest public archive of this site is from 1998-02-14. CLEAR
- It is hosted on AUTOMATTIC, from a server in US. NOTED

Domain intelligence

Registrar	GoDaddy Corporate Domains, LLC
Hosting	AUTOMATTIC - Automattic, Inc, US
Country	US
Server IP	192.0.66.2
Name servers	NS-1021.AWSDNS-63.NET, NS-1070.AWSDNS-05.ORG, NS-114.AWSDNS-14.COM, NS-1650.AWSDNS-14.CO.UK
SSL issuer	YE2
SSL expiry	2026-11-08
Domain age	30.00 years (continuous registration)
Domain expiry	2027-08-18
Archive first seen	1998-02-14
Archive snapshots	5000

About this assessment

A trust score summarises the evidence TrustSniffer could collect about mercurynews.com at assessment time. It is a starting point for your own judgement, not a guarantee: a high score means the signals were consistent with a legitimately operated site, a low or critical score means several risk patterns were present.

TrustSniffer assesses a website from the evidence it can collect at a point in time: domain registration and age, hosting and certificate, the content the site served, and third-party reputation feeds. A score is a summary of that evidence, not a guarantee and not a legal finding. There is no human rating and no user review in it. A site can change after it is assessed.

This report online: <https://trustsniffer.com/report/mercurynews.com> · assessed 2026-08-11