How to spot a phish

Chief Security Office Joint Operations Centre

Education, Outreach and Awareness

Lesson 1. Watch out for emotions



Greed

Phishing emails often dangle a financial reward of some kind if you click a link or enter your login information. If an email offers you something that seems to good to be true, it probably is.



Urgency

If an email provides a strict deadline for performing an action – be suspicious. Phishing emails will try to fluster recipients by creating a sense of urgency.



Curiosity

People are naturally curious, and phishers take advantage of this by sending emails that promise to show us something exciting or forbidden.



Fear

Scaring recipients is a common tactic in phishing emails. Emails that threaten you with negative consequences or punishment should be treated with suspicion.

Lesson 2. Examine these items closely



Email signatures

A signature block that is overly generic or doesn't follow company protocols could indicate that something is wrong.

Bob Jones, IT Manager Acrne, Inc. 020 8888 8888



Sender address

If the address doesn't match the sender name, be suspicious of the entire email.

From: Bob Jones <e34grhgshfd@ phishing.co.uk



Email tone

We know how our co-workers and friends talk, so if an email sounds strange, it's probably worth a second look.

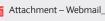
Greetings Friend,

Please click on the link for...

Lesson 3: Beware of these elements

Attachments

comes from someone you From: Bob Jones To: John Stevenson pecting the file, make sure it's legitimate before Subject: WebMail Migration



Attachment – Webmail_Migration.pdf

Mr Stevenson.

This is to inform you that we are in the pr our email infrastructure to the Windows includes an exciting new web-based inte

exactly like the real thing in order to steal your Attached is the document outlining the be

Log-in Pages

Spear phishers will often forge login pages to look

migration. To ensure timely migration we request you to enter your windows password before 8pm on Tuesday. Failure to do so will result in being locked out of your email account!

Please click here to update your password.

Thank You

Bob Iones

Roll your mouse pointer over the link and see if what pops up matches what's in the email. If they don't

If you see something, say something.



Report suspected phishing emails to gissuspectemail@barclays.com



