

Anatomy of a Phishing Email

Sure, you've seen a few phishing emails in your day—until you miss the one that got you. Here are a few of the ways to identify a phishing email as scammers try to trick you for a big pay day.

#BeCyberSmart during Cybersecurity Awareness Month.



Find out more about how to spot and stop phishing attempts at staysafeonline.org

The first important question to ask is simply whether or not you're expecting the message. If it's unexpected, then you should become a little skeptical.



Metro Bank notification-viuzitale@metro-bank.pl

Sender Address:

Remember scammers often impersonate trusted individuals or organizations. Double-check the actual email address (not just the name) for slight misspellings or any foreign-letter characters in the address.

Subject Line:

Phishing messages are often sensational, urgent, and meant to provoke an emotional response. This example message is trying to frighten you with the threat of identity theft.

*ALERT >> SUSPICIOUS
ACTIVITY ON YOUR ACCOUNT
Thursday 3/12/2020 8:46 AM*

Title Event_1229730.pdf

Attachments:

Attachments are the most common way of deploying malware. If it's a file you're not expecting, don't open it.

Greetings:

Phishing messages often use generic greetings, such as "Dear Customer" or "Greetings." A legitimate bank would know your name and would personalize its email.

Dear Banking Customer,

This automated message has been sent by our secure server to inform you that your account will be suspended within the next 24 hours due to suspicious activity on your online account server. To prevent this from happening, please login securely with our restoration link below:

Messages:

Phishing emails often use extreme claims and lots of urgencies, which are outside normal business operations. If it's too bad (or good) to be true, it probably is.

Hyperlink:

Many emails contain hyperlinks, and you should always verify where they take you before clicking. Interact with the sample hyperlink in this message to see that it's not really taking you to the bank's official website.

Restore online banking services.>

