10 Tips for Detecting Phishing Emails

1 The Vito Corleone – "Make him an offer he can't refuse."

The most common phishing expedition:

1) An offer too good to be true (found money)
2) An offer so bad it begs a response (your bank balance)

2 The Cuba Gooding – "Show me the money"

Money is a foundational element of phishing (playing on greed)

"Show me the money" emails should raise an immediate red flag!

3 Greetings Gone Bad

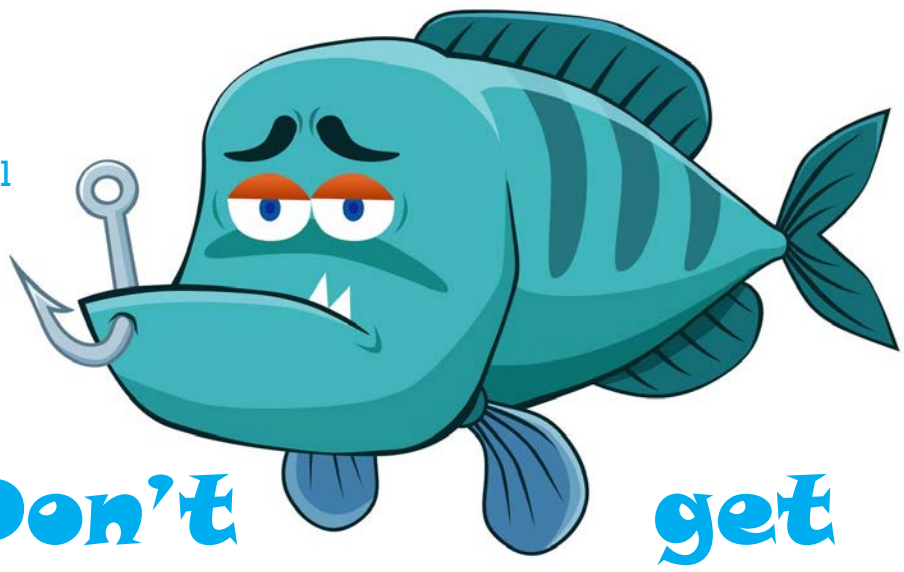
If the "To" address AND the greeting are both non-specific - ("Dear friend", "colleague", "valued customer", etc.) - say "goodbye" quickly!

4 Urgent, Urgent, Emergency!

Another central tenet of Social engineering is "Create a sense of urgency"...

Don't be caught up in the "urgent".

Your "urgent" response should be to delete it or report it.



Don't get HOOKED

5 Catch Me If You Can – Frank Abagnale

Beware of emails that include a request for business or personal information … such as "Update your account immediately."

6 Spelling Bee

Simply put, corporations hire the kids who win spelling bees … hackers not so much!

Poor spelling/grammar is a good indicator that this email is something smelling bad!

7 Phantom of the Opera

"Hide your face so the world will never find you"

Beware files masquerading as other file types, or contained in zips, like…

'exe', 'bat', 'com', 'cmd', 'cpl', 'js','jse', 'msi', 'msp', 'mst', 'paf', 'wsh','wsf', 'vbs', 'vbe', 'psc1'

8 Catfish Bite

A catfish employs an email technique called spoofing … hiding the true "From" – and it's easy to do!

Always check "From" and use other tips to avoid getting bitten.

9 Hyper on Hyperlinks

DON'T click on external links unless you check the real address embedded in the hyperlink (hover over the link).

10 Headers Prevent Headaches!

Headers on an email tell you a history….

File → Properties → Headers

View source - mxtoolbox.com

This "cheat sheet" is provided by Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund as part of ACJIF's Cyber Security Awareness Education offering, to help employees understand the risks associated with everyday emails.

Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund
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