



COT Security Alert – Infected H1N1 or IRS Spam

The Security Administration Branch has become aware of spam emails which are infected with the information-stealing trojan Zeus, also known as Zbot. One of these spam emails appears to come from the CDC and references H1N1 vaccinations. A link in this email is actually an infected executable. The other spam email appears to come from the IRS, and contains a link to a website that will infect without further action from the user.

Malicious entities often spread their malware through spam by taking advantage of people's fear or inclination to cooperate with certain types of organizations and by appearing to be from a source that is trusted. McAfee will detect this current threat if an infection occurs; however, new variants are always being created and released.

As always, users are advised to be cautious of clicking on links in emails, even when they appear to be from trusted sources. Going to the official websites without using included links is a safer option.

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