

COT Security Alert - Malicious Emails Arriving in State Inboxes

The COT Security Administration Branch has been notified of various phishing and malicious emails that are arriving in state inboxes.

A phishing email is an email that entices users to provide personal or user account information, either by response to the email or through a link provided which will take them to a bogus website. Coercive language that appeals to human emotion is used to prompt users to respond without thinking about possible dangers. Similar tactics may be used to entice users to open an email attachment that will infect their machine.

Users are advised **never** to respond to an email with personal or user account information, or click on links or attachments in unexpected emails, no matter how official, urgent or profitable they may appear. Users are advised to initiate contact with the apparent sender when in doubt without using any information provided in the email. Further, neither COT nor any legitimate institution will request password information using email.

Forwarding the information in this email to users will raise awareness to these dangers.

NOTICE: COT is providing this information so that you are aware of the latest security threats, vulnerabilities, software patches, etc. You should consult with your network administrator or other technical resources to ensure that the appropriate actions for these alerts are followed. If you are a network administrator and need additional information, please call the Help Desk at 502.564.7576.

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