



COT Security Alert – New Tactics in Phishing Emails

The COT Security Administration Branch has become aware of new tactics being used by malicious entities as they attempt to obtain login credentials to ultimately access our network or email system. In the current attempts they pose as “Microsoft System Administration” or “Webmail Management Team” and supply a link to a “survey” in their phishing emails. A sample email using these tactics appears below. The persons responsible for sending these emails may change the appearance of their emails or use different methods over time, but COT will **never under any circumstances** request password information. Users should **never** share their passwords with anyone at any time. Nothing in the sample email below or any phishing email should be used in any way.

SAMPLE:

Microsoft System Administration is currently working to improve on the security of all our Microsoft Outlook Web Access Users as we periodically review certain Accounts which are vulnerable to Unauthorized Access. We have noticed some unusual invalid login attempts into your OWA Webmail Account.

Therefore your account has been limited and may experience inability to send and receive new mail. To remove this limitation and initiate your Account Update process, please click on the link below to complete the form.

<http://www.opinionpower.com/Surveys/<random number>.html>

Click on the link above (or copy and paste the URL address into your web browser).

Thank you for your co-operation
Webmail Management Team

END of SAMPLE

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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