



COT Security Alert – Phishing Email Attacks

COT Office of the CISO has become aware of phishing attacks against state government email users. While these phishing emails may have odd formatting, misspellings and grammatical mistakes, they often include things in the email that are unique to Kentucky State Government, such as “ky.gov”, which could trick recipients into believing the email is legitimate. The emails often alarm users by warning that the user’s email account will be deleted if they do not “verify” their account by clicking a link and entering state logon credentials. This is a malicious social engineering method designed to obtain user IDs and passwords which are then used to enable further attacks.

The Office of the CISO warns users **never** to respond to unsolicited emails with personal or account information. COT will **never** rely on users to verify accounts by providing their passwords.

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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