



COT Security Alert – Phishing Email Campaign Continues

A number of state government employees have received a suspicious phishing email that looks like it comes from within state government. **This is not from a state government employee and it is not from the Commonwealth Office of Technology.** **Do not click on any link** in this phishing email as any information you enter on that page will be used to conduct further malicious activity. When state employees respond to phishing emails, this puts the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky email system at risk and impacts state business.

For those who have access to the Commonwealth Service Desk HEAT application, an alert for reported phishing emails will appear in the top portion of the screen once you are logged in. Once a phishing email is reported, no further reports are necessary and all copies of the phishing email should be deleted from mailbox folders.

Screenshot of the phishing email:



All state government email users are reminded of the following:

1. Never open attachments or click on links in unexpected or unusual emails, even if they are from someone you know.
2. Unexpected or unusual emails from known senders should be verified by contacting the sender to see if the email was sent intentionally.
3. Never reply or use information in a suspicious email to verify the sender. Always contact the sender in a separate email or by phone.
4. Hovering over the links in emails will reveal the true destination of the link.
5. COT will **never** ask for a user's credentials using any kind of online form or response to an email. COT does not need that information for any reason.
6. Remember that senders of phishing emails often make changes to the email, such as changing a link destination or subject line, in order to continue their malicious activity.

Notice: COT is providing this information so that you are aware of current security threats, vulnerabilities or preventive actions that may affect state government resources. If you suspect you have become victim to a security threat, please contact CommonwealthServiceDesk@ky.gov.

Confidentiality Statement - This communication contains information which is confidential. It is for the exclusive use of the intended recipient(s). If you are not the intended recipient(s), please note that any form of distribution, copying, forwarding or use of this communication or the information therein is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please return it to the sender, delete the communication and destroy any copies.

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