

COT Security Alert – Spam with Illegal Images of Children

The COT Security Administration Branch has become aware of spam containing illegal images of children landing in email inboxes in other states. It is possible these could eventually make it to Commonwealth of Kentucky Inboxes regardless of steps taken to prevent it.

Several things are known about the emails thus far. The “To:” lines contain the correct email address of the recipient. The “Subject:” lines vary on these emails, but may include things like the following: “chiLd”, “Links”, “Images”, and “ChiLdren\$”. The body of the email includes a URL which contains the correct email address of the recipient. These emails contain file attachments that contain illegal images of children. Users are urged not to open the emails, and never to open attachments in emails such as these where the sender is unknown and the email is unexpected. Emails such as these often contain malware in addition to the illegal content, both of which will store content on the user’s machine. Malware could also spread to other machines on the network.

If a user receives one of these emails, it should be reported immediately to COTSecurityServicesISS@ky.gov for the purpose of notification to all the proper authorities.

To properly report and take further steps in blocking the emails, an actual copy is required. It is not necessary to open the email to obtain a copy of it. Simply select the email in the Outlook Inbox (or other mailbox) list, go to Edit on the Outlook menu bar and choose Copy from the menu. Open a new email, right-click in the body of it, and then choose Paste from the pop-up menu. The email is then ready to report as requested.

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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