
COT **Urgent** Security Alert – Webmail Phishing Scams

Reports of a phishing email arriving in state email inboxes has been reported to the COT Security Administration Branch. The email says it is from “Webmail Technical Support” and uses a common phishing scare tactic of threatening loss of an email account if users do not respond with their username and password. **If a phishing scammer obtains a username and password for a state account, they could potentially access that account and the state network.** Recently, response to emails such as these has resulted in the user’s email account becoming a tool for the phisher to send out large amounts of spam emails.

Users should be aware that the phishing email may change in subtle ways in the future in order to evade any filters put in place and continue to circulate even after steps are taken to block it.

Users should be aware that they will **never** receive a request for this kind of information from COT or their administrator under any circumstances and should **never** respond to these types of emails in any way.

If anyone has received one of these emails and has responded with a username and password, they should **immediately** change their password and contact the Commonwealth Service Desk at (502) 564-7576.

Phishing emails are emails using fake information and social-engineering methods to obtain personal information such as usernames and passwords to use in fraud or other illegal activity. For more information on ‘phishing’, see the November 2007 Newsletter found at <http://technology.ky.gov/security/CyberAwareness.htm> or go to <http://www.onguardonline.gov/topics/phishing.aspx> at the OnGuard Online site maintained by the Federal Trade Commission.

Circulation of this alert to all end-users will aid in security awareness and will be effective in mitigation of the threat.

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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