



COT Security Alert – Amazon Gift Card Scam

The Commonwealth Office of Technology has become aware of scam emails sent to state email addresses. The emails appear to come from the recipient's leadership or other known person within state government, but are actually fake emails from a scammer. The emails request the purchase of gift cards for the sender's use and at the recipient's expense. The sender promises to reimburse, but since this is a scam anyone who responds to these emails by purchasing the gift cards and supplying the information for their use **cannot be reimbursed**. The current version of this scam email requests three Amazon gift cards at \$100 each, and appears to come from an iPhone, however, these elements may change in future emails.

To be protected from email scams such as these, remember that state government leadership **will never** request their employees to purchase gift cards from their personal funds **for any reason** and **will not involve their staff** in getting funds or reimbursements from state government outside normal procedures. There are **no** instances where this would be acceptable.

Please report any email arriving in your state government inbox requesting your personal funds to be sent to another individual. Send the scam email, preferably as an attachment, to phishing.reporting@ky.gov, (drag and drop from your inbox into a new email). Once reported, delete all copies of the email from your email account.

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.

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