

COT Security Alert – Celebrity News is Malware Bait

End users should be aware that hackers and spammers take advantage of current events, such as the deaths of celebrities, to spread malware. There are already reports of Michael Jackson scams circulating among the public at large.

A common ruse is to include a link or attachment in an email which is somehow indicated to contain news or photos of the celebrity. When the user opens the link or attachment their computer becomes infected. Another method is to use search algorithms or keywords that will cause better search engine results for an infected site. The site ends up close to the top of the search results list so that more people will access it and subsequently become infected.

Caution is advised while using the Internet and email. Users are advised never to open unsolicited emails and not to click on links or open attachments they may contain.

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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