



COT Security Alert – Gift Card Scams

It has come to the attention of the Commonwealth Office of Technology, (COT), that gift card scams have been arriving in state government inboxes. Please be aware that no one, either from COT or any other state or Federal agency will ever legitimately request that state government staff should purchase gift cards, or use gift cards to pay for anything. If a request appears to be from state government management or a co-worker, the request should be treated as **very suspicious**.

If any state government staff receives a phone call saying to make a payment with a gift card, hang up the phone. If anyone receives an email with this type of request, do not click on any links or attachments in the email. Immediately report the email as a phishing email by using the **Report Phish** button, (located top right of the email). Contact the Commonwealth Service Desk (commonwealthservicedesk@ky.gov) if you do not see the Report Phish button. If there is concern that the call or email is legitimate, the recipient should verify legitimacy by **initiating** a phone call to the sending person or company, but **never** by using the contact information in the suspicious voice message or email for this purpose. The phone number used to contact for verification should be looked up separately using trusted sources.

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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