

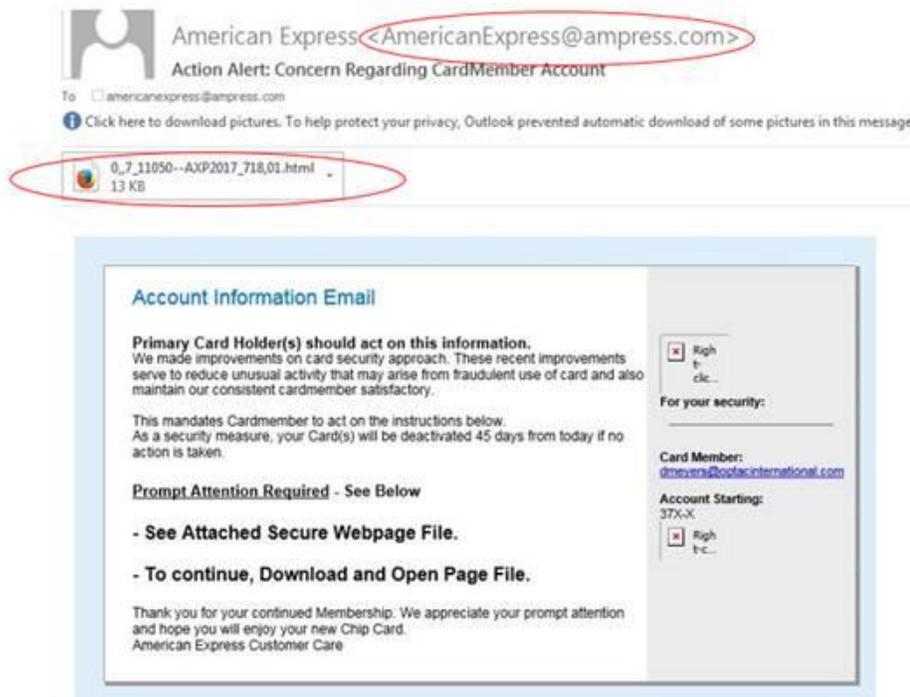


## COT Security Alert – Malicious Email Attachment

A phishing email with a malicious attachment has been reported to arrive in state email inboxes. The attachment in the email **will infect** the user’s machine when opened. There is no known antivirus protection for this infection at this time. **It is very important that this email is deleted immediately.** Anyone who has opened an email like this and has clicked the attachment should contact the Commonwealth Service Desk to open a ticket so that infected machines can be remediated.

A sample of the email contents are in the picture below. Please note that the email appears to come from American Express using an email address from “ampress.com”. The email instructs the recipient to open the infected attachment and uses threats to compel them to follow these instructions. Users should be aware that some aspects of this malicious email, such as the email address or attachment name or type, may change as the campaign progresses in order to avoid detection.

At all times users should remember that all unexpected or unusual emails urging the recipient to click an attachment or a link should be considered suspicious. No part of this type of email should be considered legitimate, including websites, phone numbers, or instructions.



COT technical teams are taking measures to reduce or remediate the effects of this malicious campaign.

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](mailto:CommonwealthServiceDesk@ky.gov).

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