



COT Security Alert – New Year Begins with Phishing Campaign

Phishing scammers have begun the new year with phishing campaigns against state government users. The most recent phishing campaign attempts to impersonate a human resource department and is formatted using a template to appear more professional. This email has common suspicious indicators, including poor grammar and an unfamiliar link (*the actual link is seen when hovering over it with the mouse pointer*). However, the main indicator that this is a phishing email is the response solicited by the email. It is important to remember that even if the sender appears to be a person or organization the recipient would trust, **an unexpected email requesting the recipient (you) to provide personal information or login credentials using a link or information contained in the email should be treated as a phishing scam**. This is not a practice of legitimate businesses or agencies. **If you receive this email delete it immediately regardless of who is the sender.**



Use these guidelines when reviewing email:

- Remember the **appearance** of an email or website is **no indicator** of its legitimacy.
- It is important to **never** click on a link in an unexpected or unusual email, even if it is from someone you know. If you believe the email may be legitimate, verify by contacting the sender, but **not** by using contact information from the phishing email itself.
- **Never** respond to an unsolicited email with personal information or logon credentials. All correspondence dealing with this type of information should be initiated by you and adequately protected with encryption.
- Remember that phishing emails use the element of surprise and urgency, as well as other “social engineering” tactics designed to manipulate recipients into acting before giving the matter adequate thought. **Always be on guard.**

If you have responded to a phishing email, please report the incident to the Commonwealth Service Desk at commonwealthservicedesk@ky.gov.

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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