



## COT Security Alert – Phishing Email with Malicious Link

---

Phishing emails continue to disrupt state government business. The most recent version is designed to appear to come from the recipient's email server administrators, even though the sender is usually a hacked state or local government user email address. The email contains some poor grammar, and indicates loss of access to email if the recipient does not "log in" to their "Outlook client" **by using an included link**. However, if the recipient responds to the email by logging in as instructed, they are not logging into their email; they are supplying their login credentials to the malicious third party who is behind the phishing campaign.

The recent phishing email may have the Subject "To All Employees & Staff". The body of the email is shown below. Be aware that any part of this email could change in order to escape detection by filters. **If received, delete this email from your Inbox and Deleted Items.**



To avoid falling for this type of email scam, please remember the following:

1. **Never use a link in an unexpected email to log into an email account, application or online service.** Close the email and use your usual methods of access so that you are initiating the action or, if the sender is known, contact them to verify the email's legitimacy.
2. **Do not verify an email's legitimacy by replying to it or by using any information it contains.**
3. **If an email is requesting a reply of personal information, or a response of personal information via a link to a web page,** it is almost certainly a malicious email, no matter it's appearance.
4. **Passwords ARE personal information.**

Thank you for your continued diligence.

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).

Office of the CISO  
Commonwealth Office of Technology  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
<http://technology.ky.gov/CISO/>