COT Security Alert – Sophisticated Phishing Emails

COT Office of the CISO has been made aware of sophisticated phishing emails arriving in state government email inboxes. The "From" field on these emails state they are from [helpdesk@ky.gov] or [commonwealthservicedesk@ky.gov]. When hovering the mouse over the links in the email, an address that includes "ky-gov" or something similar appears. The email also includes a logo that is used on state government websites so that the email seems authentic in appearance. These emails do not come from the Commonwealth Service Desk or any other state government source, but use these tricks to entice people and make them feel safe in clicking the links and giving their logon credentials. The malicious sender then may use this information to access the responder's inbox, flood spam into state government inboxes, or look for confidential information.

State staff is reminded that email addresses and phone numbers can be spoofed (faked). If a text, email, or phone call is received, the address or phone number are unreliable on their own to indicate the true identity of the person or organization. This includes email that appears to come from within state government, even from someone you know. Additionally, the Commonwealth Service Desk will **never** send an email requesting that a person provide their logon credentials **in any way**, either by response or by clicking a link.

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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