

Tip - How to Spot an Email "Phishing" or "Spoofing" Scam

These days, we all get a lot of email. Not all of this email comes from persons that we know, or other employees where we work. A lot of email comes from persons who are intent upon tricking us into giving out personal information at the mere click of a mouse.

The newest trend in email scams is something called "phishing," where you receive an email that appears to be from a legitimate email address, but is actually is one that has been "spoofed" by a individual who wants to have you verify your email address, or open a document containing a virus or worm attached to the email.

Once you click on a link in an email to remove your address from the sender's website, you have positively verified your email address to the sender. This invites the sender to push more unsolicited emails looking for more information into your email box, and adds your email address to lists that other senders will use to send you even more unsolicited email.

Another new trick is "self-sending spam" where the email is sent to you, by you, or so it seems.

Whenever Desktop and LAN Support, or other Harvard groups such as CAMail send out informational email messages, you will see the following email address in the From line of the email header:

"UISDLS" <DLS@harvard.edu>

"CAMail Postmaster Account" <postmaster@camail.harvard.edu>

If you ever receive a message that contains "The camail.harvard.edu support team" in the body of the message, it is from a spoofed address and the email should be deleted without opening any message or attachments.

Neither DLS nor the CAMail Postmaster will ever send email to tell you that your account has sent unsolicited email messages, or ask a user to open an attached file.

You can read more about these new terms by clicking on the links below:

Phishing:

http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/sDefinition/0,,sid14_gci916037,00.html

Spoofing:

http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/sDefinition/0,,sid14_gci840262,00.html

Self-sending spam:

http://searchsmallbizit.techtarget.com/sDefinition/0,,sid44_gci840088,00.html

If you need assistance with questionable emails that you may receive, please contact the Help Desk at 617-495-8411, or via email to dls@harvard.edu.