



Phishing and Social Engineering Attacks

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Awareness is the key to prevention and mitigation



[What is Phishing?]

Phishing is a kind of social engineering attack. Criminals send messages that look legitimate, trying to trick you into giving up sensitive data or downloading malicious software.



[How Common is it?]

Phishing is one of the most prevalent kinds of cyberattacks. Over **255 million incidents** were observed over a six-month period in 2022, part of a **217% percent increase from 2021**.



[Can You Prevent It?]

Some phishing attacks get caught in **firewalls and filters** built into your IT environment. Make sure those are installed and always be on your toes to catch any that slip through the cracks.



[Tell-tale Signs]

Phishing emails often come from **unknown senders** and have **misspellings** or other errors in the subject line, the sender's address, and elsewhere. If you see any of these warning signs in your inbox, there's a chance someone is trying a phishing attack. Contact IT immediately.



[Plenty of Phish!]

Phishing attacks are also extremely varied in nature. One of the most dangerous kinds is **spear phishing**, which targets specific people with personal details. There are also **voice** and **SMS phishing** schemes that can target other communication channels via your smartphone.



[Protect Yourself]

Ultimately, employee **awareness** and **vigilance** are what prevent phishing attacks from succeeding. Never open an email or download an attachment unless you can verify the sender. And never click a link someone sends you unless you can verify the domain is safe.

**Want to learn more about preventing phishing?
Get in touch!**

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