



THE SECURITY BUZZ



The Office of Security (OSY) at the National Processing Center Newsletter

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HAVE YOU BEEN PHISHING YET THIS SUMMER?



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<http://cww.npc.census.gov/osy/>

Please contact any member of the OSY Security Staff with suggestions or comments.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

When investigating a security incident, it is often discovered that people knew or suspected that something was going on before the incident occurred. From time to time it may be a false alarm and that's OK. It happens occasionally and is to be expected.

Trust your instincts and use your best judgment. When you are reporting an incident, provide as much detail as possible.

In April, the Office of the Secretary IT Security Team initiated a phishing exercise. This type of exercise is meant to increase awareness and prepare people with information on how to respond in real-world situations associated with such incidents.

The scenario involved an email sent from The DOC Email Team to 1081 accounts indicating that the email account was flagged and action needed to be taken as part of a routine security measure. The email didn't contain any malicious material as this was strictly an exercise for phishing and related spam email alertness.

The following statistics were gathered from this exercise: 13% reported the email as suspicious; 31% got "phished" and followed the link in the email; and 84% that followed the link proceeded to submit the phishing form.

Remember to never respond to a phishing or a routine spam email. By doing so you're confirming that your account is active, increasing the chance of being targeted again in the future. In addition, remember not to open any email if you do not know the sender.

To report suspicious or malicious emails, contact the Bureau of the Census Computer Incident Response Team (BOC CIRT) at 301 763 5141 or boc.cirt@census.gov and your IT Security Officer.

Be aware of which files you open and which links you follow!