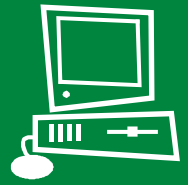


Phishing Scams



What is Phishing?

- It is a form of identity theft.
- It involves obtaining someone's financial information for illegal purposes by sending a fraudulent e-mail.
- It can appear to be a legitimate e-mail with a reasonable request—usually to verify your personal information or account details.

How does Phishing work?

- Scam artists send legitimate-looking requests posing as representatives of a trusted financial institution or business.
- The e-mail asks for verification of an account number or password via e-mail or directs you to a Web site where you are asked to update or confirm your personal information.
- Scam artists create fake Web sites that may look like those of the company they are impersonating and use “masks” to hide the real URL.
- Scam artists also use pop-up windows that contain false or misleading messages.

How can I spot a Phishing Scam?

- The e-mail may contain logos or images taken from the Web site of company the scam artist is impersonating.

- The “form” field appears to be from the legitimate company.
- The e-mail will contain a clickable link with text suggesting you use it to validate your information.
- Look for misspelled domain names like www.yohoo.com or www.paypol.com
- Never trust e-mails that direct you to a Web site whose URL is only an IP address like 102.199.60.250.

How can I Protect myself?

- Do not reply to e-mails or pop-ups requesting personal or financial information.
- Use anti-virus and anti-spyware software and update them regularly.
- Use a firewall.
- Do not share personal or financial information by e-mail.
- Review all credit card and bank statements as soon as you receive them.
- Be cautious about opening attachments or downloading any files from e-mails.
- If you believe you have been a victim of phishing, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by visiting www.ftc.gov or calling 1-877-FTC-Help (1-877-382-4357).

Who to Call for Help

UNT Dean of Students Office
940/565.2648

**UNT Computing and Information
Technology Center**
940/565.2324

UNT Police Department
940/565.3000

Denton Police Department
940/349.8181

Federal Trade Commission
877/FTC.Help
(877/382.4657)