Phishing & Viruses

Phishing

Phishing is a way of attempting to acquire sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication.

First recorded use of the term "phishing" was made in 1996. The term is a variant of fishing, and alludes to baits used to "catch" financial information and passwords.
Communications Purporting to be from

- Popular social web sites
- Auction sites
- Online payment processors
- IT administrators

- Phishing is typically carried out by email or IM
- Usually directs users to enter details at a fake website whose look and feel are almost identical to the legitimate one

Virus

When you listen to the news, you hear about many different forms of electronic infection. The most common are:

- Virus (Computer Virus)
- Email Virus
- Worm
- Trojan Horse
Computer Virus

*Viruses* - A virus is a small piece of software that piggybacks on real programs. For example, a virus might attach itself to a program such as a spreadsheet program. Each time the spreadsheet program runs, the virus runs, too, and it has the chance to reproduce (by attaching to other programs) or wreak havoc.

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Email Virus

An e-mail virus travels as an attachment to email messages, and usually replicates itself by automatically mailing itself to dozens of people in the victim's e-mail address book.

**ALERT**

Some e-mail viruses don't even require a double-click -- they launch when you view the infected message in the preview pane of your e-mail software.
**Trojan Horse**

A Trojan horse is a computer program. The program claims to do one thing (it may claim to be a game) but instead does damage when you run it (it may erase your hard disk).

Unlike viruses, Trojan horses do not replicate themselves but they can be just as destructive. One of the most insidious types of Trojan horse is a program that claims to rid a computer of viruses but instead introduces viruses onto the computer.

Trojan horses may allow a hacker remote access to a target computer system. Once a Trojan horse has been installed on a target computer system, a hacker may have access to the computer remotely and perform various operations.

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**Worm**

A worm is a small piece of software that uses computer networks and security holes to replicate itself. A copy of the worm scans the network for another machine that has a specific security hole. It copies itself to the new machine using the security hole, and then starts replicating from there, as well.
Examples

- *Mydoom worm* infected approximately a quarter-million computers in a single day in January 2004.
- *Melissa virus* in March 1999, was so powerful that it forced Microsoft and a number of other very large companies to completely turn off their email systems until the virus could be contained.
- In January 2007, a worm called Storm appeared -- by October, experts believed up to 50 million computers were infected. That's pretty impressive when you consider that many viruses are incredibly simple.

Prevention

- Software
- Awareness
- Tricks
- Intellect
Phishing & Viruses Examples

Phishing and Virus Examples

Which example illustrates phishing?
What is the purpose of the information in the phishing example versus the legitimate one?

- Inform?
- Persuade?
- Elicit?
- Alarm?

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Phishing Email

Subject: I REALLY WISH TO INVEST WITH YOU!
From: George Abed, georgeabed@wawa.com
Reply-To: georgeabed@money.com
Date: 04/17/2019 [03:13]

Dear Sir,

I am George Abed, I know you don’t know me in person, of which bad people in this world has made us not to trust the good ones again, but as for me you really need to trust me, my purpose of contacting you is to invest some money with you.

I have the sum of 18,700,000 Euro which I like to know the kind of investment we can invest the money into, so if you are willing get back to me in order for us to discuss on how the fund will be transferred to your account. So feel free to contact me on my direct phone number +2250818894 or you send me an E-Mail georgeabed@wawa.com

Finally, I will be waiting for your response.

George Abed
Charity Email

What information is the phishing email seeking verses the legitimate one?

Why is the information the phishing email seeks dangerous for the individual? What could happen?