



EMPLOYMENT &  
HUMAN SERVICES

M E M O R A N D U M

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To: All Staff (Code 2A)

Date: December 16, 2021

CC:

From: Administration

Subject: Reminder to Beware Holiday Phishing Attacks

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EHSD IT expects an increase of phishing attacks during the holiday season. The bad actors will take advantage of online shopping and shipping traffic to attempt to obtain credentials or spread malware. Here are some examples of the attacks:

**Fake Order Receipt:**

Phishing scammers engaged in holiday phishing scams will send fake order receipt emails that look like they're from well-known retailers. The goal is to have a person react emotionally because, either they didn't place the order and are angry and want to resolve the mistake, or because they're curious and want to see what they may have ordered. Either way, the order link provided will typically send the user to a fake sign-in form designed to steal login credentials or a malware-laden website.

**Spoofed Shipment Tracking:**

Online holiday purchases mean order tracking notices come in at a higher rate than the rest of the year. Scammers take advantage of this by sending phishing designed to look like it's from a company such as UPS. The link will take the user to a malicious site that can download ransomware, spyware, or another type of malware.

**Charitable Contribution Scam:**

Charities often take advantage of the giving spirit of the holiday season to increase their outreach efforts. Phishing scammers send out fake donation requests with heartfelt images to try to get someone to not only give them money, but also to give them their credit card details. If employees or companies want to donate, it's always best to do it through a reputable organization and by going directly to their site, not through an email link.

**Gift Card Phishing Scam:**

One of the more sophisticated scams is designed to impersonate an employee in a position of power at an organization, such as a manager or supervisor.

**Fake Holiday Sales & Promotions**

When you see a rock bottom price on a new iPhone 12 or another gadget you've been wanting to buy, it can be hard to resist checking it out to see if it's legitimate. Unfortunately, this often leads to people clicking fake holiday sale emails and be taken to sites that do drive-by downloads of malware.

Remember to **STOP LOOK THINK** before you take any action!