

# How to Spot a Phish

Finding the phish 101 with Professor Troy



## Lesson 1: Watch out for emotions

### Greed

Phishing emails often dangle a financial reward of some kind if you click a link or enter your login information. If an email offers you something that seems too good to be true, it probably is.



### Urgency

If an email provides a strict deadline for performing an action -- be suspicious. Phishing emails will try to fluster recipients by creating a sense of urgency.



### Curiosity

People are naturally curious, and phishers take advantage of this by sending emails that promise to show us something exciting or forbidden.



### Fear

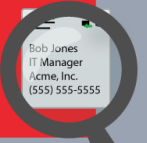
Scaring recipients is a common tactic in phishing emails. Emails that threaten you with negative consequences or punishment should be treated with suspicion.



## Lesson 2: Examine these items closely

### Email Signatures

A signature block that is overly generic or doesn't follow company protocols could indicate that something is wrong.



### Sender Address

If the address doesn't match the sender name, be suspicious of the entire email.



### Email Tone

We know how our co-workers and friends talk, so if an email sounds strange, it's probably worth a second look.



## Lesson 3: Beware of these elements

From: Joe Smith  
To: Troy Foster  
Subject: WebMail Migration

Attachment -- Webmail\_Migration.pdf

Troy,

This is to inform you that we are in the processing of migrating our system to the Windows 2003 platform, which includes an exciting new feature in our e-mail.

Attached is a document outlining the benefits of the migration. To ensure timely migration we **request you to enter your Windows password before 8 PM on Tuesday. Failure to do so will result in being locked out of your email account!**

Please click [here](#) to update your password.

Thank You,  
John Smith

#### Attachments

When an attachment comes from someone you don't know or if you weren't expecting the file, make sure it's legitimate before opening it.

#### Log-in Pages

Spear phishers will often forge login pages to look exactly like the real thing in order to steal your credentials.

### Links

Roll your mouse pointer over the link and see if what pops up matches what's in the email. If they don't match, don't click.

### If you see something, say something!

Report suspected phishing emails to the information security team