

# Cybersecurity

Identifying and avoiding Phishing in working environments



# What is Phishing?

Phishing is **any malicious message** created to “Phish” a victim and steal their information and important personal data like credit card numbers, ID numbers or even access credentials.

## Through which channels does Phishing typically happen?

- **Email**
- **SMS**
- **Social networks**
- **Phone**

*The attackers' greatest rule is to create a sophisticated and convincing message imitating, for example, your business contacts or friends.*

## Why is so dangerous from a company point of view?

- It can cause an organization **considerable financial loss**.
- It can permanently **damage the organization's reputation** with partners, clients, and business associates.

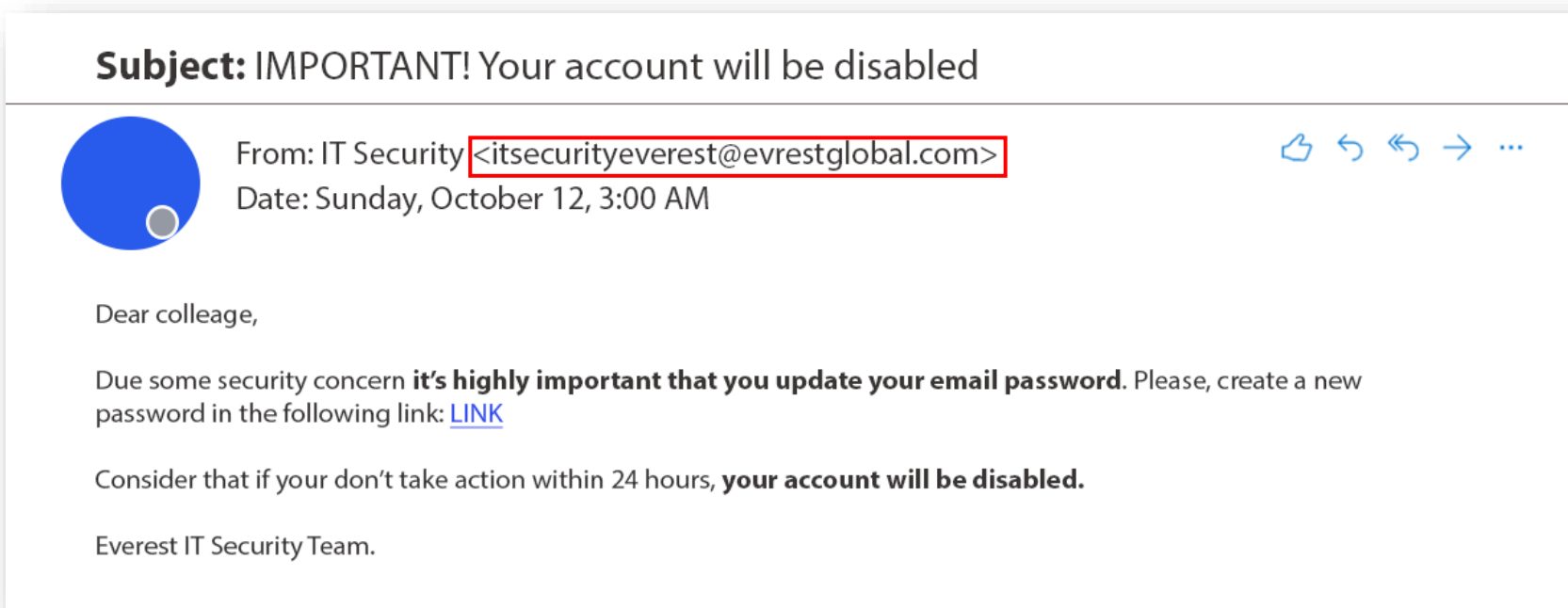
## Why is so dangerous from a personal point of view?

- It can **steal your identity** and use it to commit fraud.
- It can put your **family and friends at risk** since they might receive fake emails or messages from you.

# Easy recognizable signals of Phishing

- From

Look out for **addresses from people you don't know or weren't expecting, spelling errors, or addresses that look slightly out of the ordinary.** Cybercriminals often impersonate people you know by using lookalike email addresses. Use your bookmarked sites or a phone number you know is legitimate to verify the request from the true source.



# Easy recognizable signals of Phishing

- Date

**Messages sent at irregular hours** should raise a red flag. A message sent at 3:00 a.m. for example, or even message sent during the weekends.

**Subject:** IMPORTANT! Your account will be disabled



From: IT Security <itsecurityeverest@evrestglobal.com>



Date: Sunday, October 12, 3:00 AM

Dear colleague,

Due some security concern **it's highly important that you update your email password.** Please, create a new password in the following link: [LINK](#)

Consider that if your don't take action within 24 hours, **your account will be disabled.**

Everest IT Security Team.

# Easy recognizable signals of Phishing

- Subject

Cybercriminals will use the subject line to **pique your attention and draw you into interacting** with the rest of the email. Check the subject line matches that of the content. Is it a reply to something you didn't request? Is it a forwarded message that doesn't apply to you? Were you expecting this message? Does the request align with your company regular duct?

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# Easy recognizable signals of Phishing

- Sense of urgency

Phishing emails often **create a false sense of urgency to pressure you** into taking immediate action. For example: "If you don't act within 24 hours, your account will be disabled" or "As a security measure, we will delete your account if you don't respond within the next 24 hours."

**Keep in mind:** legitimate companies, including yours, will never give such short deadlines to verify your account, update your password, or perform similar actions.

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# Easy recognizable signals of Phishing

- Fear or negative consequences

Another common tactic in Phishing emails is to create a sense of fear in the recipient. These messages may include **threats or warnings of negative consequences to pressure the user** into taking immediate action. Attackers often use basic personal information—easily found online—to make the message feel more targeted and convincing. If you copy and paste the entire email into a search engine such as Google, you'll notice other users had reported it as a scam.

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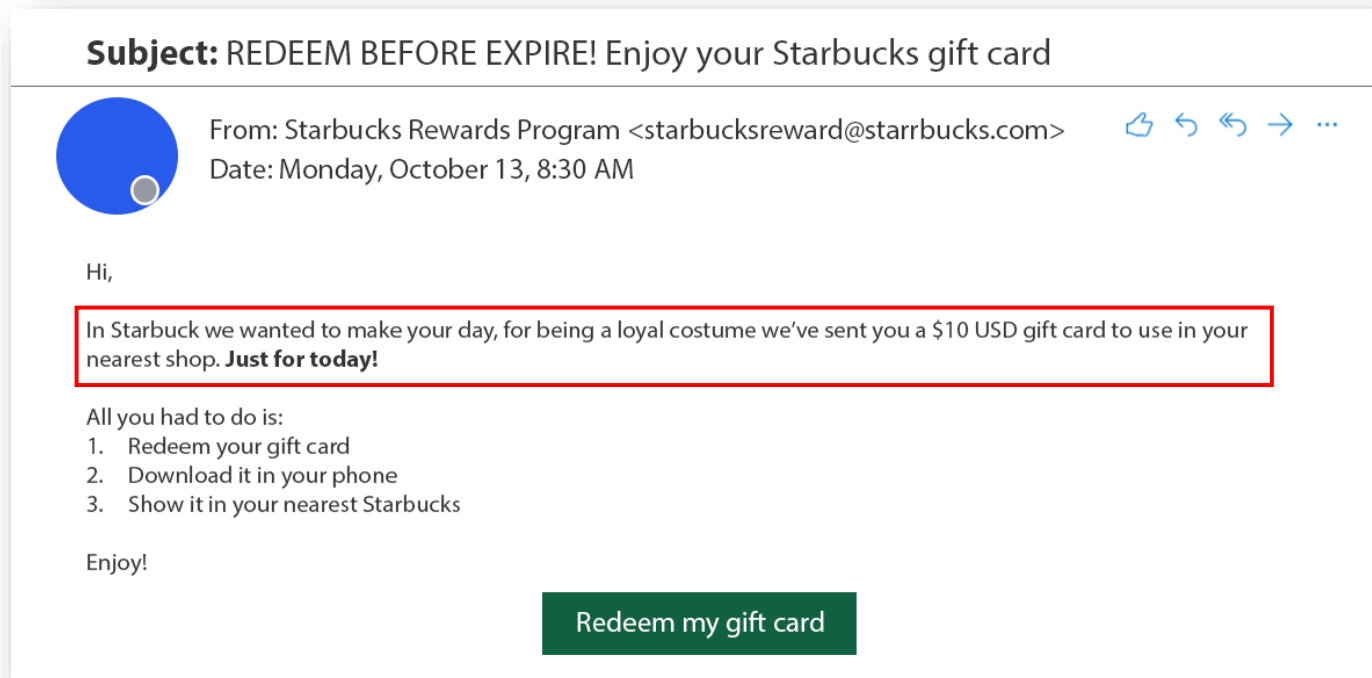
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# Easy recognizable signals of Phishing

- Promises of gifts or rewards

Many Phishing attempts involve **false offers such as gift cards, prizes, or exclusive deals** to lure you into clicking on malicious links.

**Do not trust** unexpected emails offering rewards. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.





# How do you know if a link is malicious?

First, **hover your mouse over the link so you can see the complete URL** before clicking and judge it.

**How to judge it?** To understand what you're seeing, let's break down the structure of a URL (specifically what comes before and after the main domain)

- **Subdomain:** is what comes before the main domain name, separated by a dot. Common examples include:

- **www** → [www.everestglobal.com](http://www.everestglobal.com)
- **mail** → mail.everestglobal.com
- **blog** → blog.everestglobal.com
- **store** → store.everestglobal.com

These are used to organize different parts of a website. They can be real, but attackers may fake them to mislead you. Just because you see "paypal" in a subdomain like paypal.site.com doesn't mean it's a real paypal site.

- **TLD (Top-Level Domain) :** is what comes after the main domain name. Examples include:

- **.com** → [www.everestglobal.com](http://www.everestglobal.com)
- **.org** → www.everestglobal.org
- **.net** → www.everestglobal.net
- **.edu** → www.everestglobal.edu

# Examples

Subdomain

- <https://safety.everestglobal.com>

In this case 'safety' is separated from the primary domain by a period which makes 'safety' a **subdomain**. This means you should be able to trust the site, since the main domain is everestglobal.com

Sub-directories

- <https://everestglobal.com/safety/main>

In this case 'safety' and 'main' are separated by the forward slashes and they become **sub-directories** of the original site of Everest.

Main domain

- <https://everestglobal.safety.com>

In this case safety.com would become the **main domain** and by clicking on the link you would be redirected to that website and not to everestglobal.com. Be cautious!

# What are some other signs of malicious or fakes links?

- **Periods:** periods that split the domain name can totally change the main domain, for example, in this case we will be directed to 'global.com':
  - <https://everest.global.com>
- **Hyphen:** a hyphen in the domain name changes the actual domain. It becomes part of the main domain, not just an extra word. In this case you're visiting a site called 'secure-everestglobal.com' that has nothing to do with 'everestglobal.com':
  - <https://secure-everestglobal.com>
- **Numbers:** numbers before a domain are suspicious, as they may indicate a potential security risk, like Phishing. However, if numbers appears after a domain, they can represent content identifiers, page numbers, or query parameters. So, only when you see numbers *before* the main domain, do not trust:
  - [192.45.34.72.everestglobal.com](https://192.45.34.72.everestglobal.com)
- **Shortened URL:** a shortened URL hides the real destination, making it easy to disguise malicious sites and trick people into clicking without knowing the real target site, always double check before clicking:
  - <https://bit.ly/49Pd3MK>
- **Spelling errors:** subtle spelling errors will mislead you into thinking that they are the legitimate site. Always give an extra look at the URL before clicking
  - <https://evrestglobal.com>

# Tips to avoid a Phishing attempt

To check if a link is real, manually type the URL into a search engine such as Google. Search for the exact URL along with words like "review", "scam" or "fake". The results should make it clear whether the link is legitimate or a Phishing attempt.



If someone you know sends a file you weren't expecting, verify it was really them, using a contact method you know is legitimate. Do not download or run unsolicited files.



Avoid accessing your email or social media accounts on public computers or open Wi-Fi Networks. These environments are often not secure, and attackers can intercept your personal data more easily, especially if the connection is unencrypted.

Thank you for completing this course.