HOW TO SPOT A PHISHING E-MAIL

Fraudulent e-mails ‘phish’ for your personal information, hoping to steal your identity and compromise your Ball State e-mail account.

NEVER RESPOND TO A SUSPICIOUS E-MAIL.

Logo & Trademarks
Often used to make the e-mail seem genuine.

Forged Sender’s E-mail Address
Fraudsters can easily forge an e-mail address. The message below is a scam even though the sender name is an employee name. Never assume an e-mail is legitimate because you recognize the sender. The domain is from Mopipi Botswana in southern Africa.

Recipient Not Identified
The e-mail is not addressed to an individual. A generic reference is used. Mail.com is a German e-mail service provider.

Links or Attachments
Often they ask you click on a link or download an attachment that installs malware. Others ask for your username, password or other personal information.

Deceptive Subject Line
The subject line is designed to scare or entice you to open.

Copyright Symbols
Like the logo and trademark symbols the copyright symbol gives the e-mail a genuine feel even though it is completely false.

Contact Information
This office does not exist, but looks official giving the recipient a false sense of legitimacy. Actually there is no contact information given. No e-mail, URL, phone number or address so you cannot contact anyone to verify.

Urgency
Often the fraudster will attempt to intimidate you into take action immediately with thinking.

Faulty punctuation, spelling & grammatical errors
Many phishing messages contain grammar and spelling mistakes. Upper and lowercase letters may also be used incorrectly.

From: Howell, D. F. [mailto:DFHOWELL@mopipi.ubw]
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2013 8:13 AM
To: students@mail.com
Subject: URGENT: Your Mailbox Quota Mail size 97.9%

Dear BALL STATE STUDENT:

Quota mail size 97.9%

Admin/Staff/Student/Employee
Webmail Cleanup routine/upgrade... New mails are Blocked and Filter for safe placce,
CLICK-TO-CLEAN-UP-NOW. This has become necessary to serve you better.

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The System Administrator Management Team.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information in this email may be confidential and/or privileged. This email is intended to be reviewed by only the individual or organization named above. If you are not the intended recipient or an authorized representative of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination or copying of this email and it’s attachments or the information contained herein is prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please immediately notify the sender by return email and delete this email from your system.

Not sure if a message came from Information Technology? Contact the OISS at security@bsu.edu.