

HOW TO SPOT A PHISHING SCAM

Don't get caught in a phishing scam! Emails asking for your personal information (e.g., Social Security Number, credit card number, user name or password) rarely originate from legitimate organizations. These messages put you at risk for identity theft and may compromise your computer. **Never respond to a suspicious email!**

Learn how to identify phishing from a real message, falsely claiming to come from OIT/UMass Amherst.

Incorrect Recipient Information
An email that is not addressed to you is a common characteristic of a phishing scam.

Sender's Email Address
Look at the sender's email address. Any official UMass Amherst correspondence will contain **umass.edu** in the sender's email address.

Impersonal Greeting
A phishing email usually will not use your name in the salutation.

Spelling and Grammatical Errors
Official emails do not come with blatant grammar mistakes.

OIT will never ask for your NetID, password or other personal information via email.

Ultimatum
An urgent warning attempts to intimidate you into responding without thinking.

Security Disclaimer
This does not necessarily mean the email is valid.

No Signature or Contact Information
There is no signature on this email, nor does it include a URL, phone number, or address.

Email Content:
 Date: Thu, 11 Sep 2008 11:33:04 -0500
 From: WEBMASTER ADMINISTRATOR <upgrade_team01@live.com>
 To: Undisclosed Recipients
 Subject: Attn: Staffs / Students

 Attn: Staffs / Students,
 This message is from educational webmaster messaging center to all our (umass.edu) Webmail account owners. We are currently upgrading our data base and e-mail account centers. We are deleting all our unused (umass.edu) Webmail accounts to create more space for new once. We have been sending this notification message to all our account users, and your account require verification. To prevent your (umass.edu) Webmail account from closure you will have to update it,below so that we will know that it's a presently used account. We have been sending this notice to all our (umass.edu) Webmail account owners and this is the last notice/verification exercise for your information.

 CONFIRM YOUR EMAIL IDENTITY BELOW
 Email Account Username :
 EMAIL Account Password :
 Date of Birth :
 Country :

 Warning!!! Any (umass.edu) Webmail Account owner that refuses to update his or her account within few weeks of receiving this warning will lose his or her account finally. Thank you for using umass Webmail educational account!
 Warning Code: VX2G99AAJ
 By the umass educational Project Upgrade team.

 NOTE: This message is authorize by the umass educational Project email account protector unit.
 Notif\cation message will be send back to you after verifying your account could be reset. All right reserve.

