

Phishing (fishing) on the WEB!

Today we are going fishing!

Fishing spelled Phishing is a very popular subject on the net.

In doing a Google Search I found about 73,000,000 hits!

From the Webopedia

* (fish'ing) (n.) The act of sending an e-mail to a user falsely claiming to be an established legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering private information that will be used for identity theft. The e-mail directs the user to visit a Web site where they are asked to update personal information, such as passwords and credit card, social security, and bank account numbers, that the legitimate organization already has. The Web site, however, is bogus and set up only to steal the user's information. For example, 2003 saw the proliferation of a phishing scam in which users received e-mails supposedly from eBay claiming that the user's account was about to be suspended unless he clicked on the provided link and updated the credit card information that the genuine eBay already had. Because it is relatively simple to make a Web site look like a legitimate organizations site by mimicking the HTML code, the scam counted on people being tricked into thinking they were actually being contacted by eBay and were subsequently going to eBay's site to update their account information. By spamming large groups of people, the "phisher" counted on the e-mail being read by a percentage of people who actually had listed credit card numbers with eBay legitimately.

Making the Phishing WEB site look convincing!

There are tools available to automatically scan a web site and download every bit of information about the site including images, backgrounds and logos. This is very similar to what your browser does except that instead of displaying the web site, it is stored for future use. If you scan a bank's website for instance, you can recreate the look and feel of the real website.

Then, in the e-mail you receive, you will have a link you can click on to take you to the bank and verify your account information. The link will say something like www.citybank.com but will really take you to www.ripoff-artist.ge (a site in Russia). The site will look and respond just like the real site.

We have you at our WEB site. Now What!!!

Any information you give is valuable!

If requested through an e-mail or a WEB site, Do not ever give out :

- Social Security information
- Credit Card information including PIN numbers
- Birthdates
- Personal Information
- Any information you would not want made public!



6441 East Eastman Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80222
www.bretztec.com

303.757.5626

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Also, limit the information that is stored on your computer. There are many forms of spyware that can infect your computer, scan your files, watch what you type and then send that information off without your permission. But that is another topic.

As a final note: never run a computer without anti-virus and anti-spyware software running with up-to-date definitions.



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