



CANADIAN ANTI-FRAUD CENTRE BULLETIN

Phishing

2022-03-21

FRAUD: RECOGNIZE, REJECT, REPORT

Fraud Prevention Month is a campaign held each March to inform and educate the public on the importance of protecting yourself from being a victim of fraud. This year's theme is impersonation, and focuses on scams where fraudsters will claim to be government officials, critical infrastructure businesses, and other well-known companies. The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) will be sharing advice through our website, Facebook and Twitter pages. We encourage you to follow and visit our social media profiles often for fraud prevention information. Don't forget to use #FPM2022 on all fraud prevention posts all month!

Phishing is one of the easiest ways for fraudsters to steal log in credentials, personal information or even infiltrate corporate networks. Fraudsters will use mass email campaigns to send messages that appear to be from recognized institutions, companies or government agencies. These emails may claim that you need to update your account or that money is ready to be deposited. The CAFC also receives many reports of a phishing scam variation that contains malicious links or attachments. These emails may appear to be a receipt from a purchase, delivery notification or a fraudulent notice to appear in court. If the link or attachment is clicked, your computer will be infected with malware.

Financial institutions are often impersonated by fraudsters in an attempt to make their frauds sound more convincing. The CAFC encourages consumers to reach out to their financial institutions directly if they have concerns about their accounts.

Warning signs – How to protect yourself

- Beware of unsolicited text messages and emails from individuals or organizations asking you to click on a link or open an attachment; do not click on links or attachments; they can contain viruses
- Be wary of spelling mistakes in e-mails or text messages
- Verify the hyperlink by hovering your cursor over the link or button
- Set-up multifactor authentication for all online accounts.
- The Government of Canada will never send funds by email or text message
- Learn [more tips and tricks for protecting yourself from fraud.](#)

Anyone who suspects they have been the victim of cybercrime or fraud should report it to their local police and to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre's [online reporting system](#) or by phone at 1-888-495-8501. If not a victim, report it to the CAFC anyway.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Gendarmerie royale du Canada



Competition Bureau
Canada

Bureau de la concurrence
Canada



Ontario Provincial Police

Canada