soda

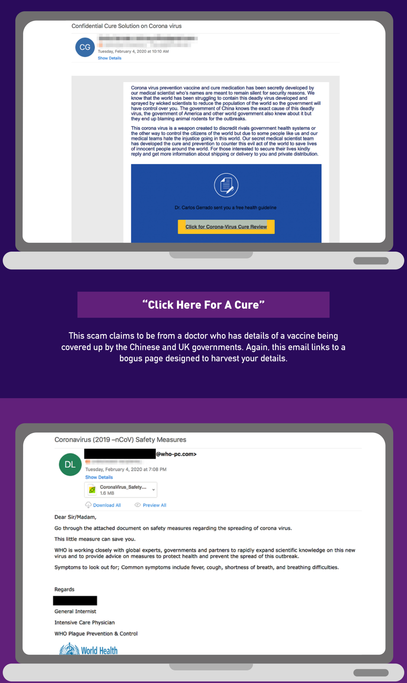
COVID-19 Phishing Scams

Over the past 2 months, during the COVID-19 lockdown, the UK has seen an influx in email attacks known as 'phishing emails.'

Below we have highlighted the most common Coronavirus related phishing scams, so you and your teams are aware of what to look out for the next time you receive a "phishy" looking email…

"COVID-19 VAT or Tax Refund"

This phishing email is disguised as a HMRC tax refund notification. Clicking the link "access your funds now" directs to a fake government landing page, where the user is encouraged to input private financial information.

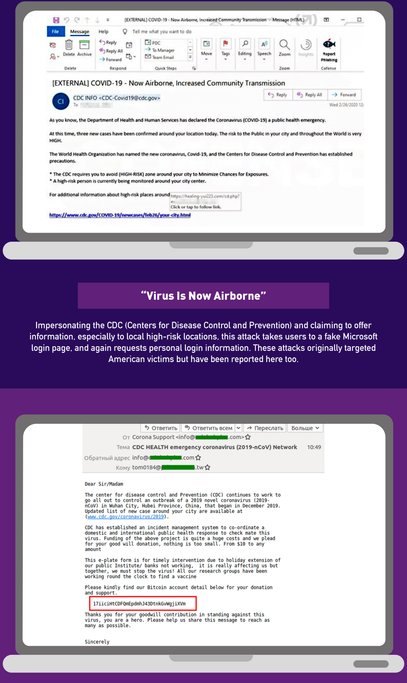


"Click Here For A Cure"

This scam claims to be from a doctor who has details of a vaccine being covered up by the Chinese and UK governments. Again, this email links to a bogus page designed to harvest your details.

"Download Safety Measures"

Disguised as the World Health Organisation, hackers claim an attached document details how recipients can prevent the disease's spread. Using such a trustworthy organisation, such as the WHO, encourages more engagement from unaware victims.



"Virus Is Now Airborne"

Impersonating the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and claiming to offer information, especially to local high-risk locations, this attack takes users to a fake Microsoft login page, and again requests personal login information. These attacks originally targeted American victims but have been reported here too.

"Donate Here To Help"

Many phishing emails, disguised as multiple charities, have been reported asking for donations to develop vaccines or to provide aid etc. These emails request payment to be made in cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin. This attack takes advantage of the generosity of victims, making it all the more malicious.

To learn more about phishing attacks and how to generate cybersecurity awareness within your organisation, get in touch with a member of the team today!

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Source: BBC - https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-51838468