Phishing Attacks

Phishing emails – or emails that appear to be from a legitimate source but are designed to infect your computer – are the #1 means of attack used by malicious cyber actors.

- More than 9 in 10 cyber attacks start with a phishing email
- More than 75% of organizations say they experience phishing attacks
- More than half of all email is malicious email

Here are some tips to help you detect and avoid a phishing attack:

- Be suspicious of unsolicited emails, text messages, and phone calls
- Only open an email attachment if you are expecting it and know what it contains
- Know how to recognize valid emails
- Phishing emails can look like messages that you might not be surprised to receive
- Think before you click
- Verify the email
- Don’t fall for scare tactics
- Make sure your computer, laptop, notepad, and smartphone are secure
- Keep your antivirus software up-to-date to detect and disable malicious programs, such as spyware or backdoor Trojans

If you suspect a cyber incident, immediately contact:

CIRT is an initiative of the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. For additional information, visit dhses.ny.gov/oct/cirt

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