

Log-on



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Mifflin County School District Technology Department

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Phishing



What is phishing?

The term phishing was coined by ‘crackers’ to refer to the act of tricking people into revealing sensitive or private information. It relies on the fact that asking a large number of people for this information, will always fool at least a small number of people. In a phishing attempt, the attacker would typically create a situation where people believe that they are dealing with an authorized party, such as their bank. The attacker will then ask the victim for sensitive information such as credit card information. Much of this activity is automated and the target is typically a large number of Internet users. Therefore **phishing** is considered an opportunistic attack rather than a targeted one.

What is identity theft?

Identity theft refers to the use of another person’s identity, usually for financial gain or for defamatory purposes. Identity theft is a very broad term which refers to the use of sensitive or private information belonging to someone else. One example of identity theft is to perform credit card fraud. **Phishing** is one method used to perform an identity theft attack.

Why should I protect against phishing?

In an organization, different people hold information that can be considered sensitive or else can be particularly useful to outside parties. A **phishing** attacker will make use of non-technical (such as social engineering) methods to gain that information.

Phishing attacks usually target:

- Bank information – such as VISA and PayPal accounts.
- Username and password information.

- Social Security numbers.
- Mother maiden’s name or other information which can be used to retrieve forgotten or lost credentials.

This information allows scammers to:

- Make fraudulent charges on your credit or debit card.
- Make use of your credentials on different online services, such as eBay, Amazon and others to commit crime without being caught (making it appear as though you committed the criminal action).

What does a phishing attempt look like?

Many **phishing** attempts make use of email to reach out to millions of possible victims. Such emails look very similar to the website of the company that these emails claim to be coming from.

To fool end-users, scammers make use of social attacks such as:

- Making use of logos and other trademarks.
- The design of fraudulent email is copied from the legitimate website so that it looks exactly the same.
- The ‘from’ address in the email looks as though it is from a legitimate email coming from the legitimate company.
- Create a fake situation which requires user input – such as informing the victim that his/her account was compromised and asking him/her to confirm the account information.

Sometimes attackers can also make use of technical attacks so that their emails look more authentic. One such attack is called URL spoofing, and allows hyperlinks which redirect to the attacker’s site to appear as if the victim is sending the information to the correct web site.

This article is reprinted from GFi Security and Messaging Software at www.gfi.com



Our children are the first Cyber Generation. Everyday they face dangers that we never would have dreamed of as kids. The world of the internet is just as real as our physical world. The only difference between the two is the virtual world never sleeps. No matter what time a child is online, someone else — a stranger — is there with them. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, anyone with Internet connection has access to our children whenever and wherever they go online. As educators, we need to be aware of the dangers that confront our students every day.

i-SAFE America Inc. (<http://www.isafe.org>) is a leader in Internet safety education. It is a non-profit foundation whose mission is to educate students, parents and educators on ways to avoid dangerous, inappropriate, or unlawful online behavior. i-SAFE accomplishes this through a dynamic K-12 curriculum along with parent, community and educator programs.

Log on to the i-SAFE America website for to learn more about this program and how you can use it to share information with your students, parents and your own children.

You can find more information on the MCSD website at the Parent's Place. The website address is http://www.mcsdk12.org/curr/Parents/cyber_safety_for_parents.htm

Cyber Safety Tips

- Only give out identifying information (information that can distinguish you from another person and might make it easy to find you in real life) when you trust the site and know that it is secure (look for the lock in the lower right corner). Identifying information includes your name, parent's names, address, phone number, school, etc.
- Do not share personal information on social networking sites such as MySpace, Xanga or Facebook
- Exit an inappropriate website by closing the window (click the X in the top corner), using the Ctrl-Alt-Delete keys to exit the site or turn off the computer.
- Don't agree to meet someone who have met online but don't know in real life.
- Only open emails from people you know.
- Don't open an email that contains a weird attachment

Parts of this article are reprinted with the permission of i-SAFE America, Inc. i-SAFE America, Inc. is a non-profit foundation whose mission is to educate and empower youth to safely and responsibly take control of their Internet experiences. <http://www.isafe.org>



▶ **F**rightening Facts

- According to a survey by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, only one in four youth who received a sexual solicitation online reported the incident to an adult.
- More than a third of students in grades five through eight say their parents would disapprove if they knew what they did, where they went, or with whom they chatted on the Internet.
- More than half have given out their name, sex and age online.
- Ten percent of students surveyed by i-SAFE America Inc. met someone face-to-face after meeting on the Internet.
- 92 percent of parents say they have rules regarding their children's Internet usage.
- More than a third of their kids said there are no rules regarding Internet usage

▶ **C**yber Bullying

Cyber bullying is verbal harassment that occurs online. It can take many forms. Threatening or nasty emails or instant messages, repeated text messages sent to a cell phone, a website set up to ridicule or threaten someone, forwarding supposedly private email messages and pictures to others are just a few. The popularity of instant messaging, email, blogging and text messaging means that kids are targeted 24 hours a day, every day.

Cyber bullying and cyberthreats are emerging as a challenging social issues facing students, educators and parents. As educators and parents, we need to be aware of these issues and how they affect our children. In a recent survey, conducted by i-SAFE America, it was found that:

- 58% of kids report that someone has said mean or hurtful things to them online.
- 53% of kids admit having said something mean or hurtful things to others online.
- 42% of kids have been bullied while online.
- 58% of kids have not told their parents or an adult about something hurtful or threatening that happened online

Many online resources have been developed to help parents, students and educators deal with the problem of Cyber bullying.

Cyberbullying (<http://cyberbully.org/>)

Bullying.org (<http://www.bullying.org>)

Web Aware: Challenging Cyber Bullying (<http://www.bewebaware.ca/english/CyberBullying.aspx>)

Cyber Bullying for Grownups (<http://www.mcgruff.org/Grownups/cyberbullying.htm>)

Cool Sites!

▶ **History Player** www.historyplayer.com

This is a new interactive history e-zine that uses articles, reviews, quizzes and games to encourage a story based, interactive learning approach to history. The site focuses on one historical event a month.

▶ **Math World** <http://mathworld.wolfram.com/>

Math World is a comprehensive, interactive mathematics encyclopedia intended for students, educators, and math enthusiasts. Like the constantly evolving discipline of mathematics, this site is continuously updated to include new material and incorporate new discoveries.

▶ **Try Science** <http://www.tryscience.org/>

At this interactive site, elementary students can go on science adventures, try hands-on experiments, take interactive field trips and view live images from web cams at science and technology centers in the US and around the world.

▶ **People of the American Revolution**
<http://www.theamericanrevolution.org/index.htm>

Who's who in the American Revolution? This is a nicely organized site with pictures of important people and quick links to information. It includes battles, a timeline, important documents and important events. Teachers can also email the site creator to request that additional content be included.

▶ **Earth Cams** <http://www.earthcam.com>

Type in a location and in a few seconds, a list of available web cams will appear. View the Seattle Space Needle, watch what is happening in the heart of New York City or observe an eaglet being born. Webcams refresh after a few seconds. In some cases, streaming video is available and most sites offer archived pictures.

▶ **Find the best gas prices in the area**

<http://autos.msn.comeverydaygasstations.aspx?zip=&src=Netx>

Find the cheapest gas prices for your area. Type in your zip code and view a map and a list of the gas stations in your area, their locations and price lists.

▶ **J.K. Rowling Official Site**

<http://www.jkrowling.com/>

Even if you are not a Harry Potter fan, this site is worth visiting for its magical components. To add to its appeal, it has recently been updated to give access to disabled, deaf or visually impaired users.

▶ **National Science Foundation Biology Research Overview**

<http://www.nsf.gov/news/overviews/biology/interactive.jsp>

This amazing site offers an interactive tour through a three-dimensional image of a human cell. Cutaways reveal the inner structure of the cell, along with detailed explanations as to how each component in the cell works with others.

Our Goals

Our goals are to provide staff with up-to-date information regarding all areas of technology, share helpful hints and ideas, showcase teachers and students and communicate staff development plans. Any questions or suggestions can be directed to **Karen Galbraith * 248-6480 gkg26@mcsdk12.org**